

ENDLINE ASSESSMENT:

PeaceFIELD¹ Report Prepared for the Project: “Promoting the Management of Social, Political and Institutional Environment to Diminish Agrarian Conflict in Polochic Valley, Guatemala”

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¹ The Peacebuilding Fund Impact Evaluation, Learning, and Dissemination (PeaceFIELD) initiative conducts impact evaluations of projects supported by the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), builds capacity to conduct impact evaluations on PBF-supported projects, and disseminates key evaluation findings.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

3ie	Initiative for Impact Evaluation
CCDA	Comité Campesino del Altiplano
CSO	Civil Society Organization
COPADEH	Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights
CUC	Comité Unidad Campesina
ENCOVI	National Living Standards Measurement Study
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FONDOTIERRAS	Land Fund
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office
IACHR	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
INE	National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala
ISDC	International Security and Development Center
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PBF	United Nations Peacebuilding Fund
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
SAA	Secretary of Agrarian Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic
TOC	Theory of Change
WFP	World Food Programme

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Executive Summary

The Polochic Valley continues to experience a legacy of poverty, deprivation and insecure land rights, even in the aftermath of the Guatemalan Civil War and the associated peace agreement that brought it to an end in the mid-90s. The legacies of this conflict and its causes, as well as current competition over land access and the use of large swathes of land in extractive industries mean that the Polochic Valley remains a hotbed of violence, particularly agrarian and land-based conflicts. For almost a decade, the UN Secretary-General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), and its implementing partners, have worked in the Polochic Valley in order to address the causes of this violence and to reduce its future incidence. In this work, we evaluate the effectiveness of a recent round of interventions, focused on improving the capacities of local dispute resolution via talking and mediation, working with WFP, FAO and OHCHR to implement these interventions.

In order to assess the effects of this intervention, we have collected bespoke data in two rounds in the Polochic Valley: a “baseline” took place in 2022 and a follow-up, after implementation had been completed, in 2024². The purpose of this data was to understand how key attitudinal, socio-economic and behavioral indicators had changed over the implementation period. An array of information was presented to different individuals in order to test their attitudinal and behavioral responses to the intervention itself, both before its implementation and afterwards.

According to our analyses, the PBF-supported project in the Polochic Valley addresses key needs, locally. The communities that have received support suffer high levels of deprivation; high levels of stress-related indicators, more generally; have insecure land rights; and, in many instances, have faced evictions from lands on which they had previously lived and worked. Despite this, we also see that expectations towards local and national dispute resolution dialogue is overwhelmingly positive, with a vast majority of respondents at both baseline and endline thinking such approaches are both appropriate and effective. By contrast, while attitudes to violence are more mixed, individuals still tend to view it as an effective, although not appropriate way, to resolve disputes. In this context, “violence” encompasses a range of actions—including physical confrontation, intimidation, and threats, as well as protest and acts of resistance—but does not extend to armed or organized lethal force. Consequently, for the intervention to work, it would be through changing these attitudes towards violence. Our results show that individuals who receive information about the intervention both before and after it was implemented were the least likely to view violence as an appropriate way to resolve disputes after the program had ended. This suggests that providing consistent information throughout the intervention can help shift attitudes in lasting, positive ways.

This analysis is based on rigorous quantitative methods and bespoke survey data collected from remote, indigenous, populations in the Polochic Valley. Embedded “experiments”, where the nature of information was randomized between survey respondents and rounds, allows

² While some preliminary groundwork—such as community consultations and discussions about the program—had taken place before the baseline, the baseline data collection occurred before the training of local mediators and the delivery of core intervention activities.

us to understand how variations thereof within the supported areas in Polochic Valley can induce different post-implementation attitudes and, potentially, associated behaviors. Due to the nature of the data collection and methods used, this stops short of fully attributable average treatment effects present in more standard impact evaluation methodologies but still allows us to show some of the positive outcomes associated with the intervention.

1. Introduction

Between 1960 and 1996, a brutal civil war was fought in Guatemala, costing the lives of between 140,000 and 200,000 people and forcibly displacing over one million Guatemalans.³ Despite reaching a peace agreement in 1996, many of the precursors to the conflict, including land rights and access, remain – at worst – unresolved and – at best – tense.⁴

In the Polochic Valley, the UN Secretary General's Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has supported interventions targeting longstanding agrarian conflict. These conflicts are characterized by land disputes rooted in existing inequalities and ongoing social tensions that have persisted since the civil war. The project worked towards three key objectives: strengthening the institutional frameworks that govern agrarian conflict; empowering indigenous communities through building capacity of community leaders; and enhancing mechanisms for dialogue and conflict resolution. By focusing on these areas, the project aimed to establish effective institutions for managing and resolving land-related disputes; equip indigenous communities with the necessary tools and resources to engage in dialogue, and; to promote peace and non-violent conflict resolution. The projects were implemented by a consortium of three UN agencies – FAO, WFP and OHCHR – with support from the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), a body within the State of Guatemala.

Using bespoke individual-level survey data collected in the Polochic Valley at “baseline” (before implementation took place but after some initial groundwork) in November and December 2022; and endline (after implementation was completed) in June 2024, this report assesses the extent to which the project achieved its key outcomes.

Our results paint a picture of communities that face an interlinked array of hardships, pertaining to poverty, insecure land rights and the threat of eviction. This shows the need for interventions of this sort in these communities. Despite these threats, however, communities remain, broadly speaking, hopeful, especially about the future. Causal analyses, which aim to understand the role of both information about the intervention, and the implementation of the intervention itself, do not show changes in individuals' attitudes towards “peaceful” forms of conflict resolution, although this likely reflects a ceiling effect. Even at baseline, individuals report high degrees of appropriateness and effectiveness of both local and national conflict resolution institutions. However, we do see some shifts in individual's understanding of the appropriateness of direct confrontation as a conflict mediation tool, with those who are reminded about the need for the intervention both before and after the implementation of

³ Schwartz, R. A., & Straus, S. (2018). What drives violence against civilians in civil war? Evidence from Guatemala's conflict archives. *Journal of Peace Research*, 55(2), 222-235.

⁴ Gibbings, J., & Vrana, H. (Eds.). (2020). *Out of the Shadow: Revisiting the Revolution from Post-Peace Guatemala*. University of Texas Press.

the intervention reporting greater reductions in their beliefs regarding the appropriateness of violence.

This work focusses on a set of projects that are, typically, complicated to analyze using standard quantitative impact evaluation methodologies. In part, this relates to the past body of work undertaken in the targeted communities in the Polochic Valley, which had been the focus of PBF support since 2011. This makes it difficult to find valid reference communities, with which to make meaningful (quantitative) comparisons. In part, it pertains to the nature of the project, which aimed to benefit everyone living in the targeted communities, making it impossible to compare outcomes for individuals who received support and those who did not within targeted communities. For these reasons, this work developed a novel set of approaches, based on giving individuals different information, either pertaining to this intervention or not, and testing whether or not individuals responded – behaviorally and / or attitudinally – to this information.

Due to the complexities of the setting and the design of the project, this work provides one of the first rigorous evaluations of approaches to localized conflict dispute mechanisms. While such interventions are a key part of international peacebuilding strategies, only a small number of evaluations have taken place on related themes (Ditlmann and Samii, 2014; Mvukiyehe and Samii, 2012; Cilliers et al., 2015). Even then, these have tended to focus on post-conflict reconciliation, for example with some individuals invited to take part in talking workshops. The effectiveness of broader peacebuilding strategies that provide resolution mechanisms to entire communities, by contrast, remains understudied (Sonnenfeld et al., 2020).

This evaluation begins to fill this evidence gap by testing whether or not the implementation of a PBF-supported intervention in the Polochic Valley – which at its core, focusses on precisely these community peacebuilding mechanisms – leaves an observable behavioral or attitudinal imprint on those who had access to the project. This evaluation is, to our knowledge, the first to attempt to do so in the context of community-wide support. Further, it does so by collecting a high-quality household panel survey amongst difficult-to-reach indigenous populations, a near unique data record of the population of these communities at the time.

The remainder of the report proceeds as follows: Section 2 provides an overview of the study context and the peacebuilding project. Section 3 outlines the quantitative methodology used for the study. Section 4 presents descriptive findings, while Section 5 presents experimental results. Section 6 analyzes the implications of these results for peacebuilding strategies. Section 7 offers conclusions and recommendations for future interventions.

2. Study Context and Peacebuilding Project

A. Study Context

In the aftermath of a 36-year civil war, Guatemala was left with up to 200,000 victims, one million displaced individuals, and a fragmented society (Commission for Historical Clarification 1999; Gauster and Isakson 2014). One of the likely contributors to the civil

conflict is identified to be unequal land distribution and social disparities that were inherited from the colonial period and have persisted since (Perera, 1995; Canelas and Gisselquist, 2018). Despite the Peace Accords signed in 1996, which attempted to address inequality in land distribution, these issues remain a critical concern and conflict over land is still a significant challenge (Carte et al., 2019; Sieder and Witchell, 2001; Granovsky-Larsen, 2018). These problems are particularly acute in the Polochic Valley of Guatemala.

A high percentage of the population of the Polochic Valley, located in the Guatemala's Alta Verapaz and Izabal departments, lives in poverty⁵. The vast majority identify as indigenous (INE, 2018) and rely, mainly, on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods (Mingorría, 2021). Most communities in the region increasingly face insecure land tenure (Alonso-Fradejas 2012). The last two decades have seen growing international demand for agricultural commodities, which has driven a process of land reconcentration by national and foreign investors (Borras et al. 2012). Specifically, there has been an expansion of monoculture farming (predominantly sugarcane and oil palm), mining, coffee production and cattle ranching (Mingorría, 2017).

These land acquisitions have disproportionately affected indigenous communities, including those in Polochic Valley, as in addition to legal disputes, they face an increased risk of eviction and violence associated with these evictions (Hervas, 2021). This, in turn, can risk worsened food security, through intensified competition for land, as local communities' face restricted access to land and their primary means of livelihood generation (Dürr 2016). In the context of these ongoing challenges, Polochic Valley, in particular, stands out as a hotspot for agrarian conflict (ACLED, 2022).

The institutional response to regularize land tenure and mediate agrarian conflict in Guatemala has come through bodies such as the Land Fund (FONDOTIERRAS) and the Secretary of Agrarian Affairs of the Presidency of the Republic (SAA),⁶ which have been the main actors in implementing the commitments related to land issues contained in the Peace Accords, prior to the creation of COPADEH.⁷ However, these and other actors have faced limitations in effectively addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by ongoing agrarian conflict (Alonso-Fradejas 2012). Furthermore, spaces for dialogue involving local and national institutions, indigenous communities, private companies, and CSOs have failed to deliver

⁵ Alta Verapaz and Izabal are two of the 22 departments of Guatemala, located in the north central and eastern coastal part of the country. According to data from the National Living Standards Measurement Study (ENCOVI), an 83.1 percent of Alta Verapaz's residents and 59.9 percent of those in Izabal were classified as living below the poverty threshold in 2014. The 2014 ENCOVI by the National Institute of Statistics of Guatemala (INE) is the most recently available official data source of poverty indicators in Guatemala.

⁶ The SAA was responsible for the direction and coordination of government commitments relating to agrarian issues and rural development between 2002 and 2020, after which it was dissolved, and its mandate moved to COPADEH. The Land Fund is a decentralized institution of the State, which focused on compliance with the Peace Agreements, promoting access to, and regularization of land.

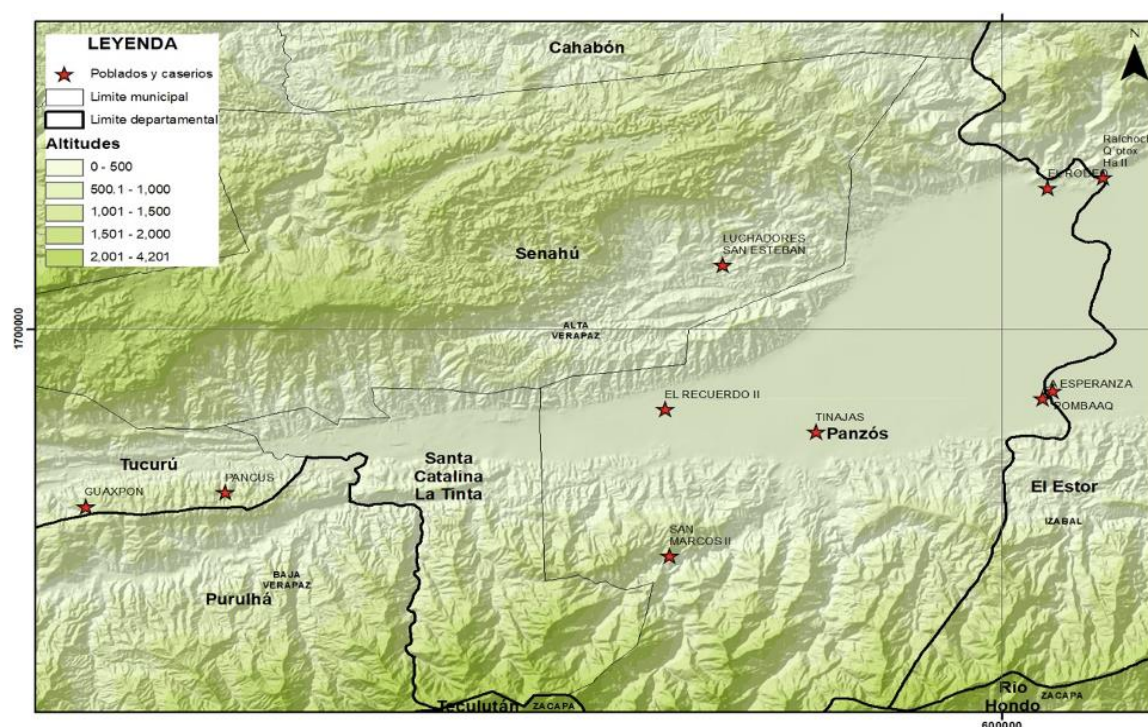
⁷ COPADEH was formed mid-2020 as the government underwent institutional reconfiguration, with the mission to "advise and coordinate with the various agencies of the Executive Branch, the promotion of actions and mechanisms aimed at the effective enforcement and protection of human rights, compliance with government commitments arising from the Peace Agreements and the conflict in the country" (Government of Guatemala, 2020 July 30, [Government Agreement Number 100-2020](#)).

viable solutions.⁸ In this context, the Polochic Valley is highly suitable for targeted PBF investments and more generally, for programming intended for peacebuilding.

B. Project Overview

The PBF has actively contributed to peacebuilding initiatives in Guatemala since 2011, with over USD 48.1 million spent on projects addressing weaknesses in the criminal justice system, impunity, agrarian conflict, and violence against women and indigenous communities. The project under study is situated in this portfolio, and specifically aims to strengthen the institutional infrastructure and empower communities to prevent and peacefully resolve agrarian conflicts. Approved for 24-months, it worked in ten communities in Polochic Valley (see the project site map in Figure 1). The beneficiary communities were selected for the project based on three criteria: they have experiences of forced evictions; the implementing agencies have worked there in the past; and they have received precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).⁹

Figure 1: Map of the ten project communities in Polochic Valley, Guatemala



Notes: Project communities are identified by a "red star" on the map. As shown, nine communities are located across three municipalities in the department of Alta Verapaz (Senahú, Tukurú, and Panzós), while one community lies in one municipality (El Estor) in the department of Izabal.

⁸ This diagnosis is based on the program documentation provided to the research team in 2022.

⁹ The precautionary measures of the IACHR are a protection mechanism through which the Commission requests a State to protect one or more persons who are in a serious and urgent situation of suffering irreparable harm. Any person or organization may file a request for a precautionary measure on behalf of a person or group of persons, identified or identifiable, who are at risk (Article 25 of the [IACHR's Rules of Procedure](#)).

Titled "Promoting the Management of Social, Political, and Institutional Environment to Diminish Agrarian Conflict in Polochic Valley, Guatemala", the project is implemented by a consortium of three UN agencies: FAO, which serves as the lead agency, WFP, and OHCHR. In addition, COPADEH acts as the main implementing partner from the State of Guatemala; and is supported by civil society organizations (CSO) within the intervention area that have vast experience in land tenure and territory issues.¹⁰

The project focuses on three primary outcomes:

Outcome 1: Institutional strengthening: The project collaborates with COPADEH to enhance its advisory and coordination role with government entities involved in agrarian conflict. The focus here is to develop training programs in public institutions at the national, departmental and local levels, such that they adopt a comprehensive and inter-institutional approach to addressing land-related issues, food rights, and improving livelihoods. Specifically, under this component:

- A study was conducted to analyze land tenure disputes in Polochic Valley, considering the multiple causes and impacts of evictions. This analysis served as a baseline for the development of inter-institutional mediation mechanisms to manage agrarian conflict with a comprehensive conflict resolution approach.
- The project provided training for 223 public officials from 18 public institutions involved in agrarian and social conflicts in Guatemala, including government, municipalities, the private sector, the justice sector, and civil society. The training emphasized international standards concerning indigenous land rights and provided officials with the skills for inclusive dialogue and agrarian conflict mediation.

Outcome 2: Capacity building for peasant and indigenous communities: The project aimed to enhance the capacity and participation of the ten communities to manage agrarian conflicts, promote community land governance, and improve food and nutritional security. Specifically,

- The project conducted diagnostics and workshops with 230 leaders and community members from the ten communities. The aim was to assess land tenure governance with a focus on gender-inclusive participation in agrarian conflict management. Community leaders were trained to develop mediation and conflict management skills.
- During the workshops, the intervention created community registries, which contain information on land use, measurements, administration, and tenure. Additionally, plans to enhance food and nutritional security were created for each community.

Outcome 3: Improving spaces for dialogue: Finally, the project aimed to improve evidence-based analysis, discussion, and conciliation for the resolution of agrarian conflicts by generating action plans, methodologies, and the tools to do so. As such, this component focuses on improving the spaces created by departmental governments for dialogue, as well as working with community leaders and organizations to support and accompany these spaces. The goal is to develop technical proposals for conflict resolution in agrarian matters, ultimately improving the effectiveness of these spaces and promoting peaceful resolution of conflicts. Specifically, under this component:

¹⁰ CSOs in the Project include the Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA), the Comité Unidad Campesina (CUC), the Fundación Guillermo Toriello, Asociación Utz Che, and Fundación Propaz.

- The initiative reactivated nine dialogue tables at both the departmental and municipal levels. These dialogue tables are dedicated to identifying agrarian dynamics and establishing mechanisms for addressing and managing conflicts.
- Community leaders holding precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights initiated training processes and the restoration of land access routes. The project has encouraged the transfer of knowledge, providing these leaders with an opportunity to share their experiences around land tenure regularization processes with leaders from other communities confronting similar challenges.

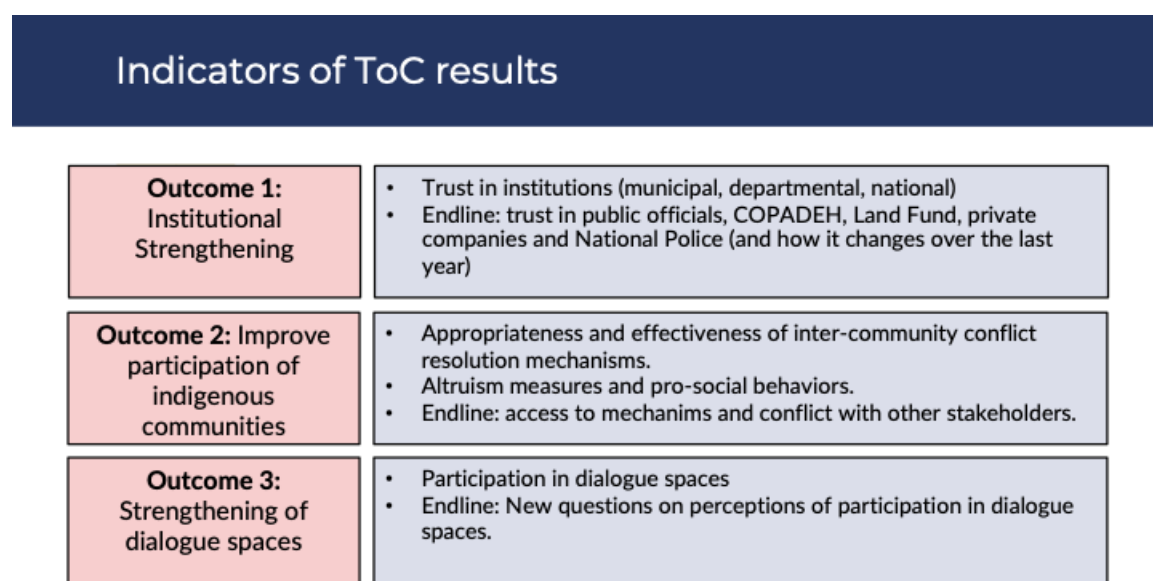
These interventions and project outcomes are outlined more formally through the theory of change (TOC) outlined in Figure 2. How outcomes pertaining to these aims are measured in this work is presented in Figure 3. As captured in the figure, the TOC for this project assumes that addressing weak institutional responses, inadequate community participation, and the existing limitations of multi-actor dialogue spaces are crucial for effectively managing and mitigating agrarian conflicts. Through this intervention, the project aims to create an environment where conflicts can be resolved peacefully and sustainably, promoting stability and improved livelihoods in the region.

Figure 2: Project's expected theory of change



Source: Authors construction based on project documentation.

Figure 3: Results Framework



Source: Authors construction based on project documentation.

3. Study Methodology

This section describes the sampling and methodology employed in this research. In addition, the procedures through which quantitative insights were gleaned are further described.

A. Sampling and survey approach

To achieve a comprehensive understanding of the communities in the project regions, two surveys were conducted: a baseline survey, prior to project implementation but after some initial groundwork, in November and December 2022, and an endline survey, after implementation was completed, in June 2024 which revisited the same individuals interviewed at baseline.

Given the relatively small sample sizes in the communities, the baseline survey aimed to include at least one individual from each household, selected randomly from the full household roster, in the ten target communities. Due to the lack of precise and reliable population statistics at the community level, the data collection process relied on population estimates provided by the project's implementing agencies, which had extensive experience working in the region. These estimates were used as a guide for survey planning, although the actual number of households interviewed varied. Table 1 below shows the actual number of households surveyed at baseline.

Table 1: community size estimation and in sample (households) across the ten communities

Department	Municipality	Community	Interviewed Households at Baseline	Interviewed Households at Endline
Alta Verapaz	Tucurú	El Pancuz	59	54
Alta Verapaz	Tucurú	Guaxpom	68	66
Alta Verapaz	Senahú	San Esteban	39	33
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	El Recuerdo II	49	47
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	San Marcos	139	129
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	Tinajas	25	16
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	El Rodeo	43	38
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	Qotoxja II	49	47
Alta Verapaz	Panzos	La Esperanza	99	0 ¹¹
Izabal	El Estor	Pombaac	102	99
			672	529

For the endline data collection, the goal was to follow up with the same respondents who had been interviewed at baseline in order to construct a panel dataset. Out of the 573 respondents not excluded due to the data collection problems in La Esperanza, 529 households were successfully located and reinterviewed. This gives an attrition rate (those who leave the survey between rounds) of 7.5%, which is minimal in both the general and specific contexts.

The survey tool was designed to collect information on individuals and their household, towards profiling the communities intended to benefit from the project. Specifically, the questionnaire¹² gathered information that allows constructing measures of:

1. **Demographic factors:** such as age, gender, formal education attainment, literacy levels, and household composition.
2. **Livelihoods and economic well-being:** e.g., on income generating activities, economic deprivation, and household poverty score.
3. **Personal well-being:** additional data on mental health, economic expectations, and overall life satisfaction.
4. **Land and conflict experiences:** displacement and eviction experiences, exposure to physical and material harm during displacement, as well as threats and fears relating to eviction and potential physical and material harm in the future.

¹¹ A total of 625 individuals were interviewed at endline, including 95 in La Esperanza. However, due to data quality concerns in La Esperanza—specifically, the field team reported that survey protocols were not consistently followed during data collection in this community—the data from La Esperanza were excluded from the final analysis.

¹² The questionnaire tool is included in Appendix C.

5. **Political and social engagement:** e.g., voting behaviors, protest participation, leadership roles in political and community institutions, engagement in social groups, religious spaces, as well in dialogue spaces.
6. **Trust in leaders and institutions:** i.e., trust in community leaders and public institutions at different levels.
7. **Prosocial behaviors:** social trust, altruistic actions, and attitudes toward the justification of violence in specific contexts.

The survey was coded onto tablets, piloted in one community, and collected by trained enumerators who were selected from the project communities.¹³ In-person interviews were conducted with survey respondents. Interviews were conducted in Spanish or in the local language (Q'eqchi'), based on the preference of the respondent.

B. Main analytical approach

Analytical design: Both rounds of the survey presented information, within the questionnaire tool itself, which aimed to gauge the impact of providing information about the project on individual attitudes and behaviors relating to conflict resolution. Individuals were randomly chosen to receive, either, information pertaining to the need for and implementation of the peacebuilding intervention under study, or about an unrelated intervention, linking school feeding with the produce of local farms. The basic idea is to test if the provision of this information elicited differences pertaining to attitudes around conflict resolution, which we expect to more likely change in the context of information about a peacebuilding project than a non-peacebuilding one. The main analyses, then, seek to understand if the implementation of the project drives variations in the attitudes this information stimulates. In particular, the work seeks to understand the role information provided before and after implementation plays in determining how individuals rationalize various forms of conflict resolution strategies, in order to approximate the effects of the intervention. To this end, individuals were selected, at random, to listen to either the prime about the peacebuilding project, or the “placebo” project.

This information was conveyed by audio embedded in the survey tablets, which was recorded at a local radio station and followed the structure – including musical interludes and method of scripting – of a kind of information dissemination radio play common in the Polochic Valley. In this way, the information was presented in a way very familiar to the survey respondents. The audio content, approximately five minutes in length, outlined the key components of the peacebuilding project and its benefits in an engaging and accessible manner (see Appendix C for the audio transcript), as well as the need for such an intervention in the first place. While the structure and format of the information remained the same across both rounds, at baseline it described a project that was planned but not yet carried out; at endline, it described the same project as already completed. An identical approach was used to deliver the placebo. The underlying assumption was that receiving information about a peacebuilding project to be implemented in the near future could change respondents'

¹³ Enumerators were selected from the communities based on recommendations from implementing partners that this would improve participant trust and data quality. The enumerator teams were trained comprehensively on the objectives of the study and data collection methods prior to the data collection.

perceptions of, and attitudes toward, local institutions involved in conflict resolution, while also reducing their preference for direct confrontation or potentially violent approaches to conflict resolution. Reminding them about the intervention at endline should increase the salience of their experiences around conflict resolution following its implementation, which might mediate or otherwise effect these responses.

This approach is beneficial in that it overcomes the key issues of defining a valid reference group. As noted previously, the project under study should, in principle, benefit all individuals in the targeted locations, meaning no valid reference group could be composed of non-benefitting individuals in those communities. Similarly, as previous work on the communities was a condition for receiving this support, it was not possible to define valid reference communities, as other nearby communities would, already, be starting from a different structure of past support. In this setting, the reference group was a *randomly selected* set of survey respondents who listened to the placebo audio.¹⁴ Therefore, in aiming to detect the legacies of the project under study, this approach allows for a comparison in outcomes to be made between two groups: a “treatment” group (which listens to peacebuilding information) and a “control” group (that listened to the placebo information). Crucially, because the design relies on random assignment to treatment versus control, any statistically significant differences in key outcomes can be attributed to the information that respondents were exposed to during the survey rounds.

Measuring outcomes: following the variation in the information provided about programming occurring in their area, the key outcomes of interest analyzed are individual’s perceptions around conflict resolution approaches. The study measured this through a vignette, by providing a scenario of conflict, based on a real event that happened in a nearby community, that occurred between two communities. This vignette was again presented in the form of a short radio play, focusing on crop burning process, standard in agricultural practices in the area, that got out of control and damaged field belonging to a neighboring community. Imagining themselves as a member of the affected community,¹⁵ respondents were then asked to rate on scales their perceptions of different approaches to “resolving” the conflict presented. Specifically, three different approaches were presented:

1. “Direct confrontation approach” – which entails a direct confrontation with the other (“opposing”) community. It was clear that this approach has the potential to involve violence. Importantly, “violence” in the vignette refers to physical confrontation, intimidation, and threats, excluding armed violence¹⁶.
2. “Peaceful local approach” – which entails engaging in dialogue and negotiation with the other community, through local institutions. Crucially, the institutions alluded to in

¹⁴ The design relies on the identification and selection of a real UN program to inform the control group about to ensure ethical transparency and avoid deceiving participants.

¹⁵ The scenario alludes to uncertainty about which community is “responsible for” causing the conflict through the destruction of crops. The respondent is situated in this hypothetical scenario as a member of the one community that can now act in one of the presented ways (see Appendix C for the full vignette narratives).

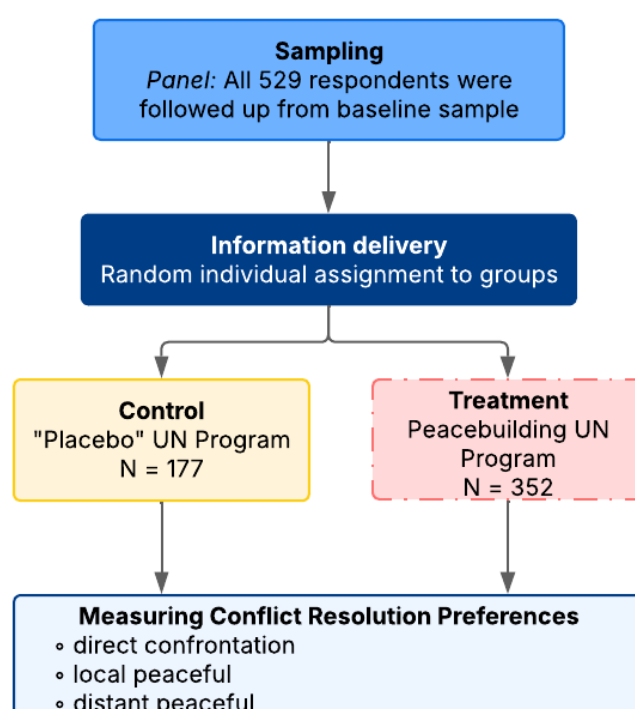
¹⁶ Other forms of confrontation such as protests or demonstrations occur in these communities but are covered in a separate vignette.

this option are those that are targeted for improvements through the peacebuilding project that is the subject of this study.

3. “Peaceful distant approach” – which entails engaging with higher level and more distant or national formal institutions, such as the Public Prosecutor’s Office. These institutions are not linked to the peacebuilding project in any way.

Respondents rated these approaches to capture their perceptions of the appropriateness and effectiveness of each strategy in resolving the conflict. At endline, respondents were also asked to rate the accessibility of each strategy, meaning how easy or feasible it is for individuals or their community to use or engage with that conflict resolution mechanism¹⁷. Therefore, by considering appropriateness (whether the strategy is seen as the right approach), effectiveness (whether it works), and accessibility (whether it is available), this approach aimed to uncover respondents’ implicit attitudes toward violence and peaceful forms of conflict resolution. Additionally, this design aimed to uncover respondents’ perceptions of how feasible and practical the peaceful options might be. Further, it allowed assessment of perceptive gaps between the appropriateness and effectiveness of each strategy, noting that violence might not be deemed acceptable in such communities but might still happen if it is perceived to be effective. Analyses pertaining to the use of these data relate to Outcome 2, presented in Figure 3.

Figure 4: Overview of the design of the information provision experiment and group assignment at endline



¹⁷ Accessibility here includes practical barriers such as cost (time and money), language difficulties, bureaucratic complexity, lack of knowledge about the process, or distrust of the institutions involved.

Figure 4 illustrates the core design of the experiment, where at endline roughly one third of survey respondents (N=177) were randomly assigned to the control group, while two thirds were randomly assigned to listed to the treatment group that received information about the peacebuilding information (N=352). The lower part of Figure 4 describes the kinds of approaches to conflict resolution that individuals were asked to comment on.

Robustness Check: Conflict with a Private Company

To test the robustness of the findings and ensure that the results are applicable to other relevant contexts, a second vignette was included at endline. This vignette depicted a conflict between a community and a private company¹⁸. As with the initial vignette, respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the same three approaches to resolving the conflict. The inclusion of this second vignette ensures that the experimental design accounts for potential variations in conflict dynamics—specifically, how community members perceive conflicts with external actors, such as private companies, as compared to conflicts between communities. The overall approach of the work was designed to capture individuals' attitudes towards violence, broadly, not its use in the context of the specific setting presented in the vignette. This provides a useful way to check whether or not individuals respond in a structurally different way to different situations.

Finally, and in addition to perceptions about the different approaches to conflict resolution, the survey tool gauged out-group altruism, by asking respondents if and how much of their own community's resources they would be willing to donate to a third (worst-affected) community that was presented in the vignette.

4. Descriptive Findings

A. Who are the project beneficiaries?

To gain an understanding of the individuals living in the communities intended to benefit from the project, the baseline survey collected measures relating to their individual / household demographics and socio-economic characteristics. In this section, we use this data to explore the situation of the communities before the intervention took place. In Table 2, summary statistics from the whole sample on some of these measures are presented. Survey respondents were aged 40.61 years on average, with individuals as young as 18 and up to 92 years. 27 percent of respondents are “youth”, being of 29 years of age or younger,¹⁹ while 73 percent of the sample were female. 51 percent report being married, although when including civil unions, the share is much higher at 91 percent. With respect to formal

¹⁸ In the scenario the company is requesting that the community vacate land it had acquired for agricultural production, in exchange for offering employment to community members. The respondent is situated in this hypothetical scenario as a member of the community that can now act in one of the presented ways: (1) a direct confrontation approach – refusing to leave the land and protesting, even if this leads to conflict with authorities and the private company; (2) a peaceful local approach – seeking dialogue with the company through local institutions such as departmental dialogue tables; or (3) a peaceful distant approach – appealing to national formal institutions like the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. (See Appendix C for the full vignette narrative.)

¹⁹ The classification of youth is the one used locally, and is based on the standard set by the Guatemala National Institute of Statistics (or Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas, INE).

schooling, educational attainment is relatively low: 21 percent attended primary school and 28 percent completed primary schooling but over half did not attend school at all. Despite this, 48 percent of respondents report that they are able to read and write.

The lower panel of Table 2 reports household characteristics and shows that household size is on average 5.91 persons, with 3.74 dependents per household on average (i.e., children or elders who do not earn any income). 97 percent of respondents earn a living as community day laborers, meaning that they rely on informal work on accessible farms and plantations for their livelihood. In terms of household infrastructure, 63 percent of respondents live in a home that only has one room, 67 percent in one that has a wall that is made of wooden materials, and 21 percent a home that uses branches as roof material. These measures can be used to construct a “poverty index” and show that the degree of poverty in these communities, particularly compared to Guatemala as a whole, is high.

Table 2: Summary statistics along demographic and household socio-economic characteristics (baseline survey)

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Demographic characteristics					
Age (reported)	40.61	14.67	18.00	92.00	671
Is young (age 29 or less)	0.27	0.45	0.00	1.00	671
Is female	0.73	0.44	0.00	1.00	671
Is married	0.51	0.50	0.00	1.00	671
Is married/in civil union	0.91	0.29	0.00	1.00	671
Has some primary schooling	0.21	0.41	0.00	1.00	671
Has completed primary school	0.28	0.45	0.00	1.00	671
Has no formal education	0.51	0.50	0.00	1.00	671
Literacy: can read/write	0.48	0.50	0.00	1.00	671
B. Household income and characteristics					
No. in household	5.91	2.75	1.00	19.00	671
No. of dependents in household	3.74	2.19	0.00	11.00	671
Income source: community day laborer	0.97	0.17	0.00	1.00	671
Home: has one room only	0.63	0.48	0.00	1.00	671
Home: has wooden walls	0.67	0.47	0.00	1.00	671
Home: has branches as roof	0.21	0.41	0.00	1.00	671

Other measures of household socio-economic well-being are captured in Figure 5, which shows the degree to which respondents report experiencing deprivation along multiple categories in the 12 months prior to the baseline survey. In this figure, the measure of deprivation is a dummy that equals one if the respondent reported that they experience the corresponding deprivation “very frequently” or “always”.²⁰

At baseline, deprivation of basic necessities was widespread in the communities, with 50 percent of respondents reporting a lack of cash, 39 percent lacking food, 31 percent without fuel, 38 percent unable to access medicines, and 35 percent lacking clean water. By the

²⁰ The underlying deprivation scale ranged from values 1-5, which correspond to experiencing shortages 'never,' 'once or twice,' 'several times,' 'many times,' and 'always' in the past year. For the analysis, very frequent deprivation is experienced by participants who reported a frequency of 'many times' or 'always.'

endline survey in 2024, there was some improvement in food and cash access, with fewer respondents reporting shortages—37 percent reported a lack of food, and 44 percent were deprived of cash. However, deprivation worsened in other areas. More respondents experienced shortages of medicines (41 percent) and fuel (45 percent), while the most severe increase was seen in water deprivation, which affected 55 percent of respondents. These figures thus lend credence to the notion that the communities in question experience a high level of poverty, regardless of the measures used to capture it.

Figure 5: Deprivation of basic necessities

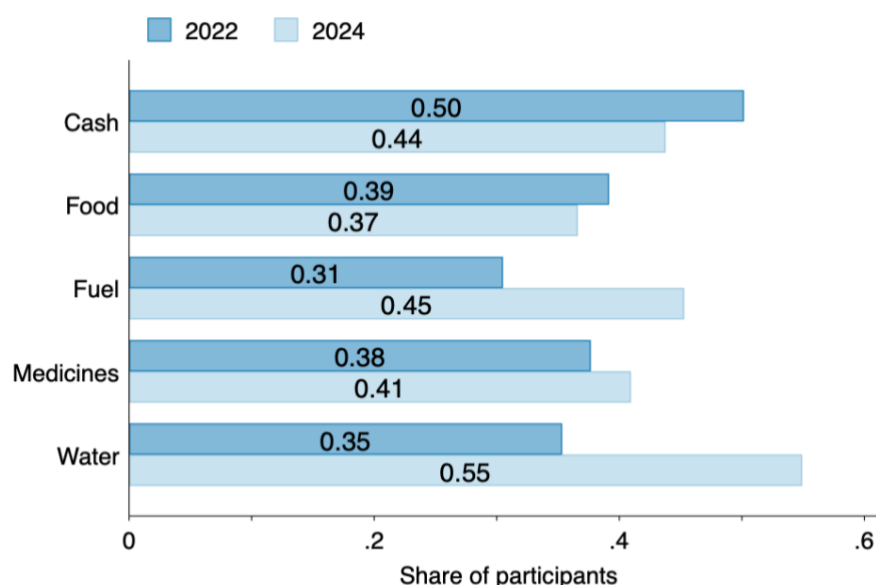


Table 3 captures respondent personal well-being and perceptions, first highlighting responses to a mental health screening tool²¹, and then life satisfaction and expectations for the future. While not designed to produce clinical diagnoses, these measures offer indicative insights into stress-related symptoms. At baseline, 94 percent of the sample reported experiencing frequent headaches in the past 30 days, while 89 percent indicated they were constantly tired, and 87 percent felt nervous, tense, or worried. At endline, these figures remained high, with 95 percent continuing to experience frequent headaches, 84 percent still reporting constant fatigue, and 92 percent feeling nervous, tense, or worried. However, there were slight variations in other stress-related indicators: 65 percent at baseline reported difficulty sleeping, compared to 71 percent at endline; 63 percent of respondents reported trouble thinking clearly at baseline, a figure that increased to 95 percent at endline; and 86 percent of respondents reported stomach discomfort at baseline, a slight decrease to 84 percent at endline.

²¹ These survey tool questions were designed to assess respondents' mental health, incorporating adapted elements from the Perceived Stress Scale (Cohen et al., 1983) and the Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7 (GAD-7) scale (Spitzer et al., 2006). These instruments are widely used for screening stress and anxiety symptoms in population surveys; however, they have not been formally validated for use with indigenous communities in Latin America. As such, the results should be interpreted with caution and are not intended to serve as clinical diagnoses.

Despite these ongoing challenges, perceptions of life satisfaction and expectations for the future were notably more positive at endline. On average, life satisfaction (measures in a scale 1 to 5) increased from 3.55 at baseline to 4.10 at endline. Additionally, 60 percent of the sample believed their life would improve within the next year, an increase from 49 percent at baseline, while 70 percent were optimistic about an improvement in the economy, compared to 83 percent at baseline.

Table 3: Summary statistics along socio-economic and individual perceptions

	Baseline		Endline	
	Mean	N	Mean	N
A. Personal wellbeing				
Frequent headaches	0.94	671	0.95	529
Constant fatigue	0.89	671	0.84	529
Nervous, tense, worried	0.87	671	0.92	529
Sleeping badly	0.65	671	0.71	529
Trouble thinking clearly	0.63	671	0.95	529
Stomach discomfort	0.86	671	0.84	529
B. Life satisfaction and perceptions				
Life Satisfaction, 1 (low) – 5 (high)	3.55	671	4.10	529
Thinks life better in 1 year	0.49	671	0.60	529
Thinks economy will improve within a year	0.83	671	0.70	529

B. Land Tenure

Figure 6 presents summary statistics on respondents' land histories, including their experiences with agrarian conflict. At endline, 45 percent of the sample reported having “legal certainty” regarding the land they occupy (i.e., they have regularized their tenure with the Land Fund and possess legal documentation). Land tenure in this region is typically communal, and half of the communities surveyed were reported to have legal certainty²². This 45 percent figure specifically represents respondents from the five communities with secure land tenure. By the time of the endline survey, these same five communities continued enjoyed legal certainty.

At endline, 62 percent of respondents reported having experienced at least one eviction in their lifetime, and 48 percent described the eviction as a violent event. Additionally, 12 percent of respondents had experienced a relatively recent eviction (within the past 10 years).

²² Information on community land tenure status was provided by implementing partners rather than collected through the survey. According to these reports, five communities had legal certainty over their land at baseline, and this status remained unchanged at endline.

Figure 6: Past experiences with land and agrarian conflict (endline survey)

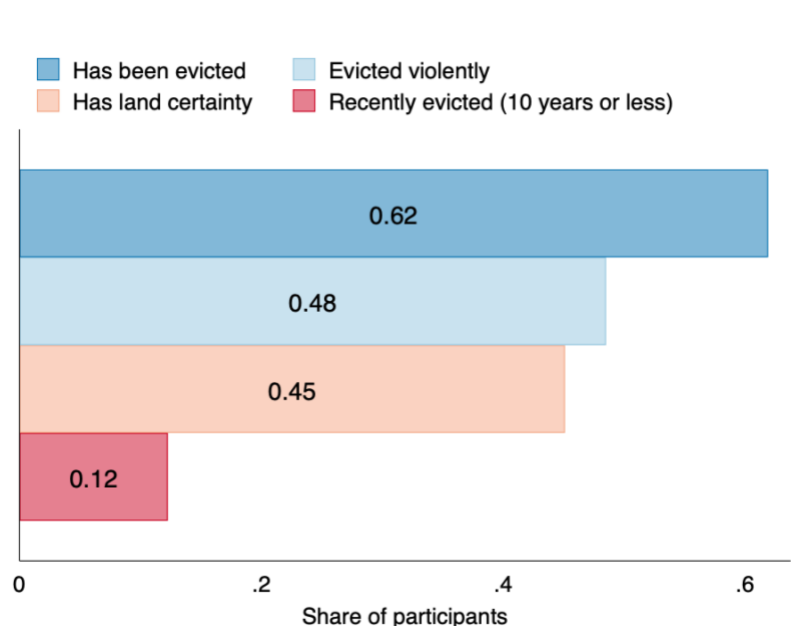


Table 4 compares data from the baseline and endline surveys. At endline, 44 percent of respondents fear being evicted from their current land, a decrease from 52 percent at baseline. Similarly, 55 percent of respondents express concerns about being harmed on their land, compared to 52 percent at baseline. Additionally, 76 percent of respondents report feeling that their current land tenure is secure, while 63 percent expect their tenure to remain secure in the future.

Table 4: Current fears and perceptions about land²³

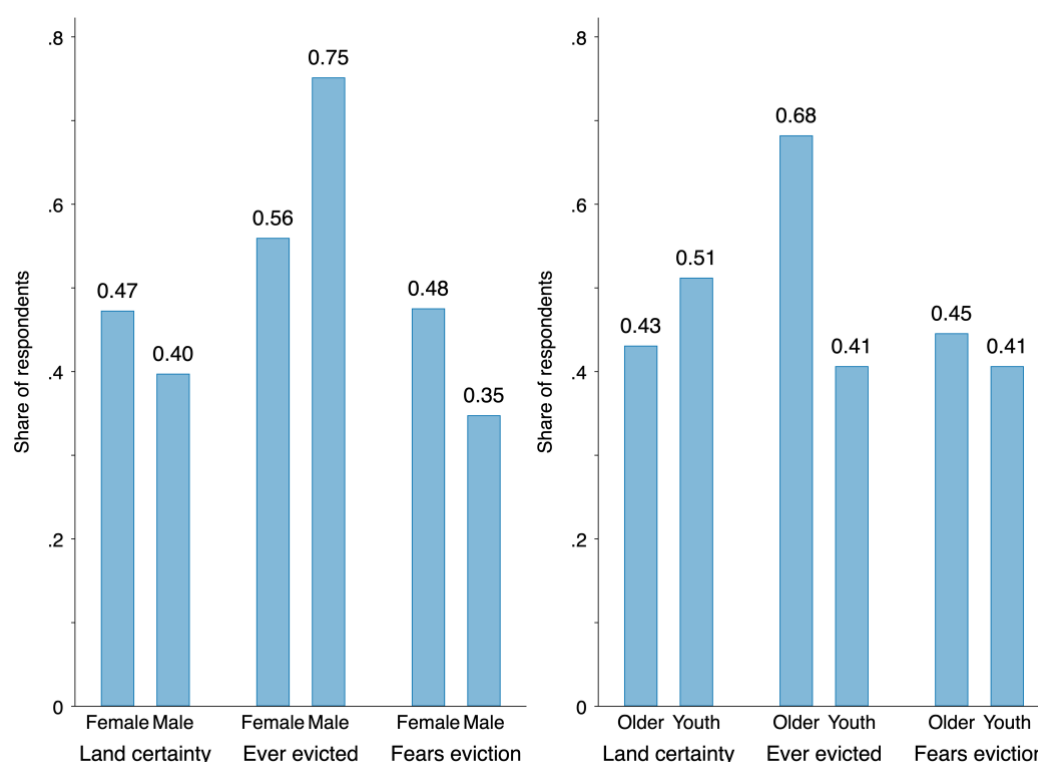
	Baseline		Endline	
	Mean	N	Mean	N
Fears being evicted from current land	0.52	670	0.44	530
Fears being harmed at current land	0.52	671	0.55	530
Perceived secure tenure at current land	-	-	0.76	530
Perceived secure tenure in the future land	-	-	0.63	530

Finally, we show in Figure 7 how some of these measures relating to agrarian experiences and fears differ by key demographics, specifically gender and age. As shown, 47 and 40 percent of female and male respondents have land certainty, respectively; while a higher share of males had ever experienced eviction: 75 percent compared to 56 percent of women. Conversely, however, a higher share of women feared being evicted from their current land: 48 percent compared to 35 percent of men.

As captured on the right-hand-side graph, a higher share of youth compared to older individuals had land certainty (51 versus 43 percent); while a lower proportion of youth had experienced evictions (41 compared to 68 percent), and a slightly lower share express fearing an eviction in the future (41 percent of youth compared to 45 percent of older individuals).

²³ Questions on perceived secure tenure (current and future land) were only asked at endline survey.

Figure 7: Experiences with and fears about land, by demographic characteristics (endline survey)



C. Institutional trust, social engagement, and political participation

A next set of descriptive results explores respondent's social and political engagement, as well as their perceptions and trust towards institutions both local and more distant. The former set is presented in Table 5 below, which shows that over 30 percent of the sample were born and raised in the community in which they currently live. The vast majority (over 90 percent) attends church regularly, while over 70 percent report active engagement in social spaces, such as the general assembly, farmers cooperatives, committee of elders, religious groups, community promoters, spiritual guides, cultural groups, health promoters, and midwives. Similarly, nearly all respondents report having attended local meetings. As shown, over 40 percent of respondents take on active leadership roles in various community committees and assemblies.²⁴ Overall, this may demonstrate the diverse and active participation within the community across different types of groups and committees (both at baseline and endline).

The lower panel of Table 5 highlights a more political pattern of engagement within the communities. Political participation appears to have increased over the past two years. As shown, 94 percent of respondents reported voting in a community election at endline, compared to just 60 percent at baseline. Similarly, 82 percent of respondents had voted in a national (general) election at endline, up from 55 percent at baseline. Additionally, 58 percent of respondents reported having ever participated in a protest, compared to 49 percent at

²⁴ The survey asked about different spaces, including the general assembly directors board, women's committees, COCODEs, pro-improvement committee, local authority (councilors), youth committees, and indigenous mayors' offices.

baseline. These figures suggest relatively high political participation among members of the project communities.

In terms of trust in institutions, 59 percent and 55 percent of respondents expressed trust in local leaders—specifically traditional and religious leaders—at endline, representing an increase from 50 percent at baseline. However, trust in formal institutions remains lower. At endline, 38 percent of respondents reported trust in their municipality, 31 percent in the district governorate, and 30 percent in the national government. These figures reflect a slight decline compared to baseline, where trust in these institutions was 44 percent, 36 percent, and 29 percent, respectively. Overall, the data suggests that trust in community leaders continues to exceed trust in formal public institutions when it comes to enforcing or resolving local issues.

Trust in other key actors and institutions involved in the agrarian conflict also varies. 30 percent of respondents trust public officials, while 40 percent express trust in COPADEH, the institution responsible for managing agrarian conflict (and one that was reinforced by the project). A majority—54 percent—report trust in the Land Fund, whereas only 23 percent have confidence in private companies²⁵.

*Table 5: Social and political engagement*²⁶

	Baseline		Endline	
	Mean	N	Mean	N
A. Social integration and participation				
Born and raised here	0.37	671	0.33	529
Attends church regularly	0.90	671	0.93	529
Participates in social spaces	0.72	671	0.74	529
Attended: local meetings	0.99	671	0.98	529
Leader in the community	0.44	671	0.41	529
B. Political engagement and institutional trust				
Voted in community election	0.60	671	0.94	527
Voted in a general election	0.55	671	0.82	529
Has taken part in a protest	0.49	671	0.58	527
Trusts traditional leader	0.50	671	0.59	528
Trusts religious leader	0.50	671	0.55	527
Trusts municipality	0.44	671	0.38	526
Trusts district governorate	0.36	671	0.31	526
Trusts national government	0.29	671	0.30	528
Trusts Public Officials	-	-	0.30	527
Trusts COPADEH	-	-	0.40	492
Trusts Land Fund	-	-	0.54	528
Trusts in private companies	-	-	0.23	505

²⁵ In the appendix, a more detailed distribution of these trust variables is shown, where responses ranged from values 0 – 4, corresponding to having “no confidence”, little confidence, “a fair amount of confidence” and “a great deal of confidence” in said institution (see Figures A1 and A2). Here, a respondent is considered to have trust if they report “a fair amount” or “a great deal” of confidence.

²⁶ Questions on trust in public officials, COPADEH, Land Fund, and private companies were only asked at endline survey.

Panel A of Table 6 shows that 62 percent of respondents reported attending dialogue spaces that were reinforced by the project. A set of measures was also collected to assess the quality of participation in these spaces. Among those who participated, 75 percent reported having discussed land issues with company or government representatives during the meetings. Additionally, 80 percent felt better informed about how to proceed in case of land conflicts after participating in the meetings.

A majority—84 percent—reported knowing their rights when discussing land matters with representatives from companies or the government, while 88 percent felt that their voice was heard in these meetings. Furthermore, 69 percent believed that the meetings with companies and government representatives had helped reduce land conflicts in their community. Lastly, 95 percent of respondents felt that the decisions made in these meetings were fair for everyone involved.

As shown in Panel B of Table 6, most respondents—96 percent—reported being aware of the peacebuilding project under evaluation, while 94 percent indicated that they had participated directly in the project. There were three types of participation: 71 percent took part in the training sessions, 42 percent were involved in the construction of the participatory diagnosis, and 65 percent participated in the exchange of community experiences.

Table 6: Participation in dialogue spaces and Joint Program (endline survey)

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Participation in dialogue spaces					
Attended: dialogue spaces	0.62	0.49	0.00	1.00	529
Has discussed land issues with companies/gov.	0.75	0.44	0.00	1.00	326
Feels informed about how to proceed	0.80	0.40	0.00	1.00	326
Knows their rights when talking to companies/gov.	0.84	0.37	0.00	1.00	326
Feels that their voice is heard in the meetings	0.88	0.33	0.00	1.00	326
Thinks that meetings helped reducing land conflict	0.69	0.46	0.00	1.00	326
Thinks that decisions made in meetings are fair	0.95	0.22	0.00	1.00	326
B. Program participation					
Knows the program	0.96	0.20	0.00	1.00	529
Participates in Joint Program	0.94	0.24	0.00	1.00	529
Activity: trainings sessions	0.72	0.45	0.00	1.00	529
Activity: construction of diagnostics	0.42	0.49	0.00	1.00	529
Activity: exchange of community experiences	0.65	0.48	0.00	1.00	529

D. Social trust, altruism, and tolerance for violence

This section explores a range of behaviors exhibited by the respondents, focusing on social trust, altruistic actions, and attitudes toward the justification of violence in specific contexts.

Social trust measures the extent to which individuals trust others in different contexts. As shown in Panel A of Table 7, the highest levels of trust are reported within immediate family networks, with 79 percent of respondents indicating trust in family members. Trust in neighbors is somewhat lower, with 63 percent of respondents reporting trust in those living nearby. Trust declines further when considering broader social circles; only 46 percent trust acquaintances, and a significantly lower percentage—25 percent—trust individuals they have

met for the first time. Trust in people from different ethnic groups or nationalities is particularly low, with just 19 and 18 percent of respondents expressing trust in individuals from different ethnic backgrounds or countries, respectively. These findings suggest that while trust is strong within close-knit communities, it weakens as the social distance increases, particularly across ethnic and national lines.

The data also reveals a pattern of altruistic behaviors, where respondents demonstrate varying levels of willingness to support others financially or through unpaid work (shown in Panel B of Table 6). A majority of respondents engage in financial support for family members, with 74 percent reporting that they have given money to their family, and 61 percent indicating that they have lent money to family members. Altruistic behaviors extend to the community, with 67 percent having given money to someone within their community and 60 percent having lent money to someone in the same group. However, altruistic behaviors directed towards outsiders are less common, with 40 percent of respondents giving money and 34 percent lending money to individuals outside their immediate social circles.

In terms of unpaid work, 78 percent of respondents have worked for free for their family, and an equal percentage report having done so for their community. However, the willingness to work for free for outsiders drops significantly, with only 40 percent indicating such engagement. These findings suggest that altruism is primarily directed towards family and community members, reinforcing the importance of strong social ties in motivating acts of help and support.

Table 7: Social trust and altruism (endline survey)

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Social trust					
Trusts family	0.79	0.41	0.00	1.00	529
Trusts neighbors	0.63	0.48	0.00	1.00	529
Trusts acquaintances	0.46	0.50	0.00	1.00	529
Trusts people they've meet for the first time	0.25	0.43	0.00	1.00	529
Trusts people of different ethnic group	0.19	0.39	0.00	1.00	529
Trusts people of different nationality	0.18	0.39	0.00	1.00	529
B. Altruistic behaviors					
Given money to family	0.74	0.44	0.00	1.00	529
Lent money to family	0.61	0.49	0.00	1.00	529
Given money to someone within community	0.67	0.47	0.00	1.00	529
Lent family to someone within community	0.60	0.49	0.00	1.00	529
Given money to outsider	0.40	0.49	0.00	1.00	529
Lent money to outsider	0.34	0.47	0.00	1.00	529
Worked free for family	0.78	0.41	0.00	1.00	529
Worked free for community	0.78	0.41	0.00	1.00	529
Worked free for outsider	0.40	0.49	0.00	1.00	529

The final set of measures in this section assesses respondents' views on the justification of violence in various situations. As noted earlier, "violence" in these communities includes actions such as physical confrontation, intimidation, threats, protests, and acts of resistance—but excludes armed or organized lethal force. However, these questions capture general

attitudes toward violence rather than specific cases, complementing the vignette scenarios. The results show a relatively low acceptance of violence, with the highest agreement being 29 percent of respondents thinking violence is justified for ensuring their voice is heard. This is followed by 28 percent of respondents justifying violence to gain respect. 25 percent of respondents justify violence for self-defense or to prevent aggression. Fewer respondents believe violence is justified to win an argument (24 percent) or to respond to an insult (17 percent). These figures suggest that while a small portion of the sample condones violence under specific circumstances, the majority does not endorse violent behavior in everyday conflicts.

Table 8: Justification of violence (endline survey)

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
Violence in self-defense is justified	0.25	0.44	0.00	1.00	529
Violence to prevent aggressions is justified	0.25	0.44	0.00	1.00	528
Violence to win an argument is justified	0.24	0.43	0.00	1.00	529
Violence to respond to an insult is justified	0.17	0.37	0.00	1.00	529
Violence to get respect is justified	0.28	0.45	0.00	1.00	528
Violence for my voice to be heard is justified	0.29	0.45	0.00	1.00	529

In summary, the data on pro-social behaviors highlights strong social trust within family and community networks, coupled with a significant level of altruistic engagement. However, trust and altruism diminish when extended to broader social groups or outsiders. Furthermore, while some respondents justify violence in specific situations, the overall tendency is toward non-violence, indicating a general rejection of violence as a means of conflict resolution. These findings suggest that social cohesion and mutual support are vital components of community life, with a prevailing commitment to resolving issues peacefully within familiar social contexts.

E. Perspectives on conflict resolution

The following section summarizes key findings from respondents' ratings of various conflict resolution approaches as presented in two vignettes. The first vignette involved a conflict between two communities, while the second depicted a conflict between a community and representatives of a private company. In both cases, respondents were asked to assess three conflict resolution approaches: (1) the **direct confrontation approach**; (2) a peaceful approach through **community institutions** directly enhanced by the project; and (3) a peaceful approach through **national institutions** not directly supported the project.

For **appropriateness**, responses were rated on a four-point scale: *completely inappropriate*, *somewhat inappropriate*, *somewhat appropriate*, or *completely appropriate*. For **effectiveness**, responses followed a similar scale: *completely ineffective*, *somewhat ineffective*, *somewhat effective*, or *completely effective*. Additionally, only at endline were respondents asked to rate the **accessibility** of the local and distant peaceful approaches²⁷. For accessibility, responses

²⁷ By "accessibility," we mean how easy or difficult respondents perceive it is to use or engage with each conflict resolution mechanism, considering factors such as economic cost, bureaucracy, knowledge of the process, language barriers, and trust in the institutions involved.

were rated on a four-point scale: *completely inaccessible*, *somewhat inaccessible*, *somewhat accessible*, or *completely accessible*.

For ease of analysis, the four-point scale responses were dichotomized into binary variables, with a value of 1 representing a positive assessment (either “somewhat” or “completely” appropriate, effective, or accessible), and 0 representing a negative assessment (“somewhat” or “completely” inappropriate, ineffective, or inaccessible). The first set of outcomes examines respondents' perceptions of conflict resolution approaches in the context of a *conflict between two communities*. While the full distribution of responses for the three conflict resolution approaches is presented in the appendix (see Table A2 and A3), Figure 8 provides the averages. In this figure, the left graph shows the share of respondents who perceived each approach as appropriate, while the right graph shows the share who perceived each approach as effective.

At baseline, a relatively low percentage of respondents considered direct confrontation as appropriate (39 percent) compared to its perceived effectiveness (64 percent). By the endline, the percentage of respondents who viewed direct confrontation as appropriate increased to 42 percent, while those who deemed it effective decreased to 50 percent.

In contrast, perceptions of formal local institutions remained consistently positive, with over 90 percent of respondents affirming that these institutions provided appropriate and effective means for resolving intercommunity conflicts at baseline and endline. Similarly, 88 and 85 percent of respondents perceived formal distant institutions as appropriate and effective respectively at baseline. However, this figure declined at endline, with 79 percent perceiving distant institutions as appropriate and 80 percent as effective.

Figure 8: Share of respondents perceiving approach as appropriate (left) and effective (right) – Intercommunity conflict

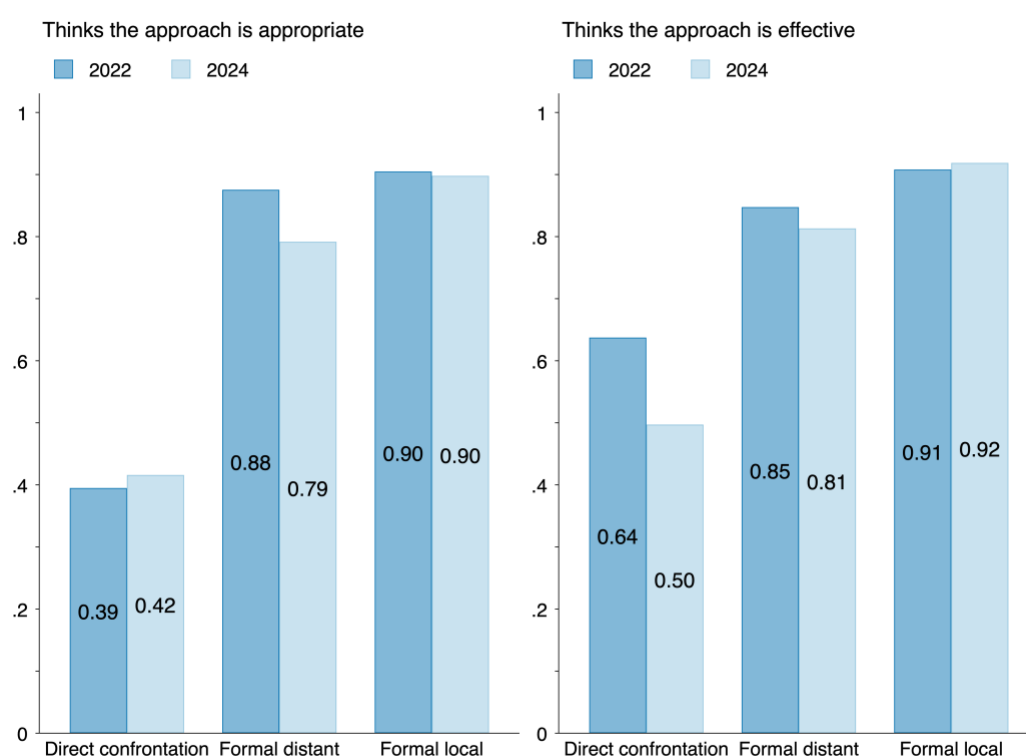
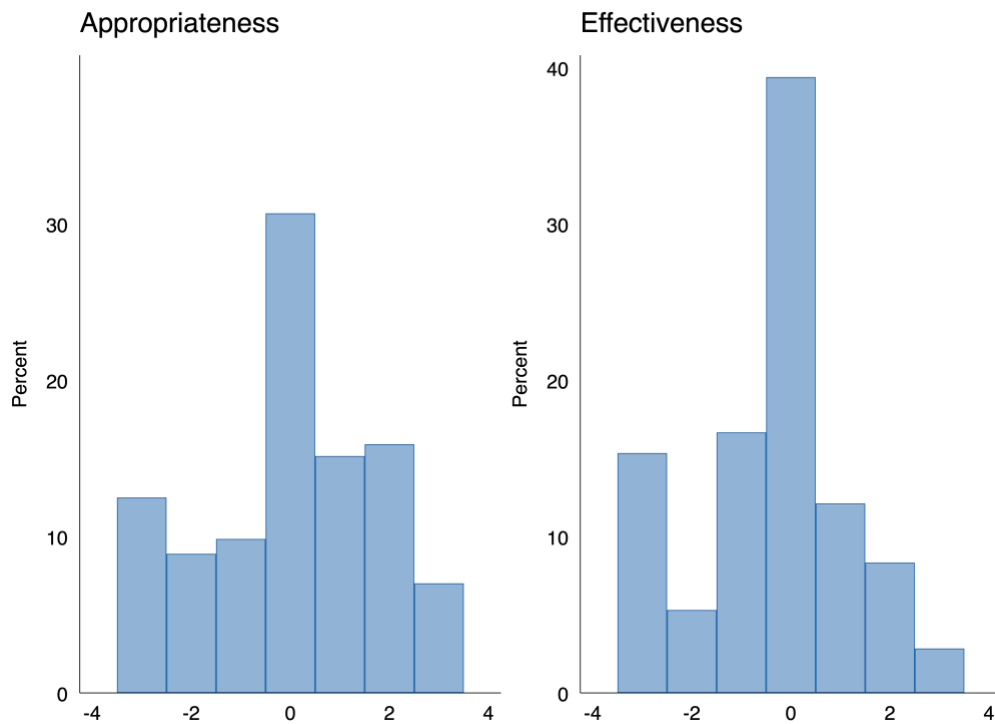


Figure 9 shifts the focus from the levels of perceptions at baseline and endline to the individual changes in perceptions between 2024 and 2022. The figure illustrates the distribution of differences in respondents' perceptions of appropriateness (left panel) and effectiveness (right panel) of direct confrontation between the two time points. Both appropriateness and effectiveness were rated on a four-point scale score, ranging from "less" to "more." A new variable was created to represent the score difference between the 2024 and 2022 ratings:

- *Difference in appropriateness* = $app.score_{2024} - app.score_{2022}$
- *Difference in effectiveness* = $eff.score_{2024} - eff.score_{2022}$

A higher value of this difference indicates that the respondent's attitudes towards direct confrontation have become more negative (i.e., "worse") at the endline²⁸.

Figure 9: Distribution of difference in perception score between 2024 and 2022



In terms of appropriateness, 31 percent of respondents reported no change in their perception of direct confrontation, as indicated by a score difference of zero. Another 31 percent of respondents considered direct confrontation to be less appropriate in 2024 compared to 2022, as reflected by negative differences (-1, -2, and -3). On the other hand, 38 percent of respondents indicated that they considered direct confrontation more appropriate in 2024, as indicated by positive differences (1, 2, and 3).

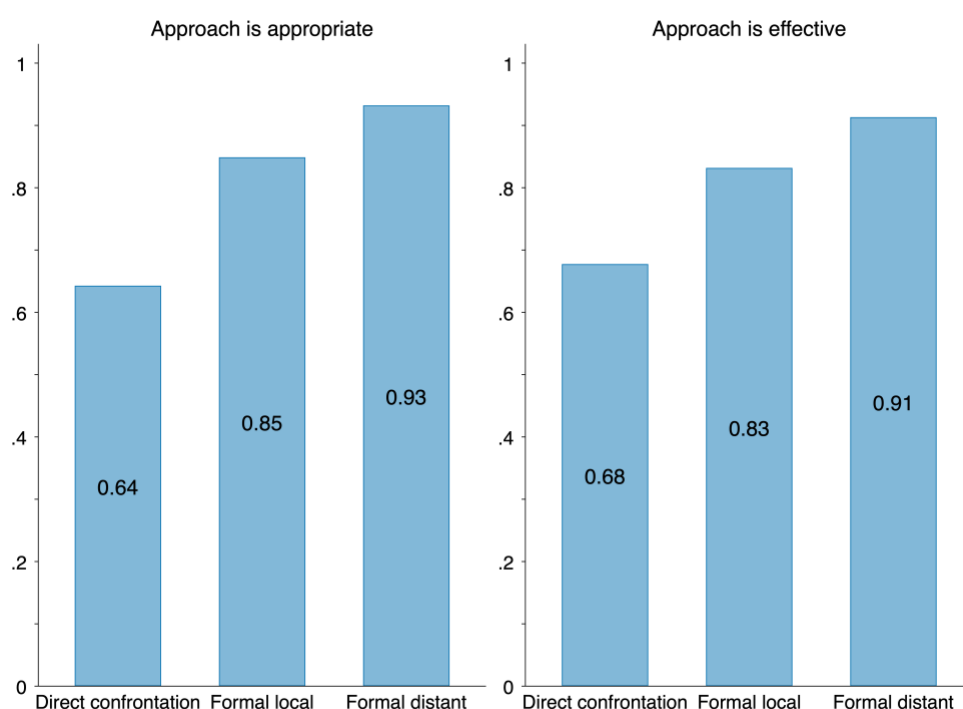
²⁸ If the difference is greater than zero, it suggests that in 2024 the respondent perceives direct confrontation as more appropriate or effective than in 2022. If the difference is zero, it means that the respondent's perception has remained unchanged. Conversely, if the difference is less than zero, it indicates that in 2024 the respondent considers direct confrontation to be less appropriate or effective than in 2022.

In terms of effectiveness, 39 percent of respondents indicated no change in their perception of the direct confrontation, as indicated by a difference of zero. 37 percent of respondents reported perceiving direct confrontation as less effective in 2024 compared to 2022, as shown by negative differences (-1, -2, and -3). In contrast, 23 percent of respondents considered direct confrontation to be more effective in 2024, as reflected by positive differences (1, 2, and 3).

A second vignette, collected only at endline, involved consideration of a conflict between a community and *representatives of a private company*. This was designed to assess the extent to which the vignettes collected at both baseline and endline reflect general attitudes towards the use of violence and the extent to which they capture attitudes specific to intercommunal violence.

The summary of the results of respondents' perceptions regarding this scenario are shown in Figure 10 (the distribution of responses is presented in Table A4 in the appendix). In this case, a higher percentage of respondents considered direct confrontation as appropriate (64 percent) and a similar proportion think it is effective (68 percent) compared to the first vignette, which involved a conflict between two communities. Despite this increased approval for direct confrontation in the second scenario, preferences for peaceful approaches remained strong. Over 80 percent of respondents considered the local peaceful approach as both appropriate and effective, while more than 90 percent rated the distant peaceful approach similarly. Broadly speaking, these results do not suggest that there are very major differences across types of violence.

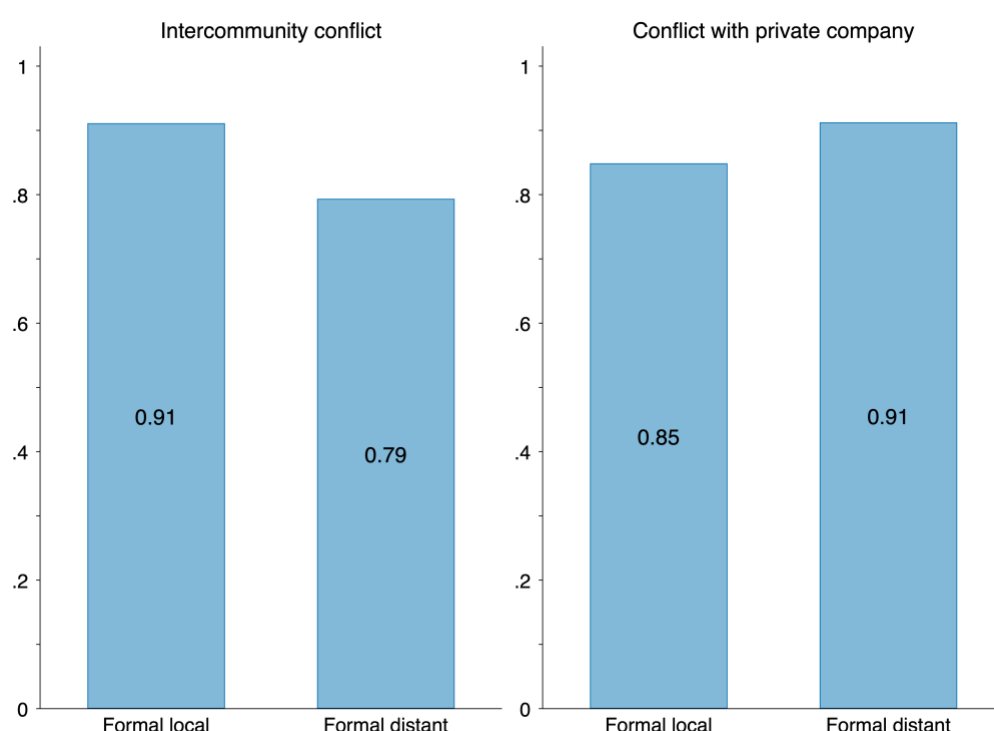
Figure 10: Share of respondents perceiving approach as appropriate (left) and effective (right)– Conflict with private company



Lastly, figure 11 illustrates the share of respondents who perceived each peaceful approach as accessible at endline, broken down by type of conflict. Perceptions of access to conflict

resolution mechanisms are generally high. In the case of a conflict between two communities, 91 percent of respondents considered local institutions accessible, while 79 percent viewed distant institutions as accessible. For a conflict between a community and a private company, 85 percent of respondents found local institutions accessible, whereas 91 percent felt that distant institutions were accessible for resolving the issue.

Figure 11: Share of respondents perceiving approach as accessible for intercommunity conflict (left) and conflict with private company (right)



Altruism

A final outcome to be investigated is whether behavior towards others may be affected by the information provided on the project, or the placebo, to respondents. Specifically, we employ a measure of altruism, which is captured by an item that asked individuals if they would be willing to donate their own resources to an out-group (external community) in need. In Table 9, summary statistics along these measures are displayed, where the first row is constructed from a yes/no question on whether they are willing to donate;²⁹ while the second captures the amount they are willing to donate; and the last is a dummy variable for a willingness to donate a high amount. Overall, respondents demonstrate a high level of altruism: the vast majority are willing to contribute resources, with 96 percent at baseline and 89 percent at endline reporting they would donate. Additionally, 53 percent at baseline and 54 percent at endline expressed a willingness to donate a high amount.

²⁹ Here, response values range from 1 to 4, corresponding to “very little”, “little”, “some”, or “a lot”, respectively.

Table 9: Donation willingness and amounts

	Baseline		Endline	
	Mean	N	Mean	N
Would donate to help affected community	0.96	671	0.89	529
Amount would donate (1 – 4)	2.68	646	2.62	471
Would donate a high amount	0.53	671	0.54	529

Overall, the communities have experienced a pattern of hardships that have brought them to their current situation and while they remain, broadly, optimistic, it is not difficult to see that low trust - particularly outside of family circles - is prevalent; that individuals have harsh experiences of past evictions and, in many cases, significant uncertainty regarding the land to which they have access; and experience relatively high levels of poverty. At the same time, this contrasts with high levels of social engagement, religiously, socially and politically, in these communities; fairly high levels of altruistic behaviours, at least within the family and community; and, perhaps surprisingly given the design of the project, a high level of expectation with regards to the function of peaceful dispute resolution mechanisms at both the local and national level. Overall, while individuals seldom report that the use of violence is appropriate, both when asked directly and when enumerated from the vignettes, they tend to think of violence - particularly at baseline - as effective. This could create a space in which violence could still happen, despite understanding that it is not appropriate or a preferred methods of conflict resolution. Believing that violence is effective, and when lacking positive outcomes from other approaches, could still result in its use as a conflict resolution mechanism. From these summary findings, we anticipate that this is the route through which project is most likely to work: by reducing perceptions of the effectiveness of violence, all other things considered.

5. Main Causal Results

This section presents the main findings from the analysis, which examines whether information about the project's implementation had a lasting effect on the attitudes and behaviors of those who received it.

A. Estimation strategy

To test the effect of the (information) treatment on outcomes of interest, a linear probability model (LPM) is employed, which allows estimation for binary outcomes in a framework where the effect sizes are easier / more intuitive to interpret. In doing so, we estimate the following regression equation:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 T_{it} + \beta_2 X_i + \varepsilon_i \quad ,$$

where Y_i is the outcome of interest; T_i is the treatment indicator that takes the value one if respondent i received information on the peacebuilding intervention and zero otherwise, and times t = baseline and t = endline; X_i is a vector of covariates; and ε_i is the standard error. The main outcomes of interest, Y_i , relate to measures of individuals' perceptions on the *appropriateness*, *effectiveness*, and *accessibility* of the conflict resolution methods outlined

earlier in the methodology section³⁰. Additional analyses altruism towards the out-group, measured as the willingness to donate and how much to donate in a hypothetical scenario.

A set of control variables, X_i , is included: specifically, gender, age, deprivation, land tenure security, and eviction incidents. These variables are included because on the one hand, they could be expected to have a direct impact on the outcome of interest. Further, the choice of these variables is influenced by the project's TOC, which suggests that females and younger individuals are more inclined to prefer peaceful forms of conflict resolution; that less deprived individuals may have a lower preference for direct confrontation, and those with secure land tenure may be less likely to choose a potentially violent conflict resolution approach. Noting the risk of overfitting the models, however, two sets of results are presented: those where these controls are not included, and results where they are. We do not include any other covariates due to an unbalanced sample, as tests of randomization were performed and do not reveal insignificant imbalances by treatment along key measures (see Table A1 in the appendix). Finally, all estimations control for reporting participation in the project, which is predicted to be strongly correlated with how individuals respond to the information treatment.

B. Findings I – Perceptions on the Direct Confrontation Approach

This section presents the results regarding respondents' perceptions of the direct confrontation approach in conflict resolution, focusing on its perceived appropriateness and effectiveness and whether this varies across the nature of individuals are given. The analysis compares the responses of those who were informed about a peacebuilding project versus those who received information about a placebo UN program.

Table 10 displays the results for the direct confrontation approach to solve the intercommunity conflict. As shown in columns 1 and 3, respondents who were informed about the peacebuilding project were generally less likely to view direct confrontation as an appropriate or effective means of resolving the conflict. Specifically, individuals exposed to the peacebuilding treatment were approximately 7 percentage points less likely to consider direct confrontation appropriate, and 5 percentage points less likely to view it as effective, compared to those who received the placebo treatment. However, these differences were not statistically significant.

Columns 2 and 4 present the same results, but with the inclusion of selected control variables. When controlling for socio-economic factors, the treatment effect remained largely unchanged. However, several factors were found to influence perceptions of direct confrontation. Gender was a significant factor: females were more likely than males to consider direct confrontation an appropriate strategy. Additionally, prior experiences played a role. Respondents facing higher levels of deprivation were significantly less likely to view direct confrontation as appropriate or effective, with these effects being both large and

³⁰ For the analysis of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the direct confrontation approach, the treatment effects will be assessed not only at the levels observed in 2024 but also in terms of the differences between 2024 and 2022. This comparison captures the change in participants' perceptions over time, providing a more nuanced understanding of how the peacebuilding intervention may have influenced shifts in attitudes toward direct confrontation.

highly significant. In contrast, respondents who had experienced evictions were significantly more likely to view direct confrontation as an appropriate method for conflict resolution, with these effects also being large and statistically significant at the 1 percent level. Lastly, participation in the peacebuilding project did not significantly affect respondents' perceptions.

Table 10 - Direct confrontation appropriateness and effectiveness (levels – endline survey)

	(1) Thinks direct confrontation is appropriate	(2) Thinks direct confrontation is appropriate	(3) Thinks direct confrontation is effective	(4) Thinks direct confrontation is effective
Peacebuilding information	-0.071 (0.117)	-0.066 (0.140)	-0.047 (0.312)	-0.044 (0.321)
Female		0.078 (0.107)		0.132** (0.006)
Young (29 or less)		0.015 (0.778)		0.035 (0.521)
High deprivation		-0.170*** (0.000)		-0.266*** (0.000)
Has land certainty		0.030 (0.559)		-0.072 (0.150)
Has been evicted		0.155** (0.003)		0.035 (0.509)
Has participated in Joint Program		-0.077 (0.390)		0.104 (0.236)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.463	0.463	0.528	0.528
Adjusted R-squared	0.003	0.040	0.000	0.088
Number of observations	529	529	529	529

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Table 11 shows the effects of the peacebuilding treatment on respondents' perceptions of the appropriateness and effectiveness of direct confrontation between 2022 and 2024. The outcome variable measures the change in respondents' views on direct confrontation, with a higher difference indicating a stronger endorsement of direct confrontation at the endline compared to the baseline.

In the model without control variables receiving peacebuilding program information at baseline had a positive and statistically significant effect (at the 10 percent level) on both appropriateness and effectiveness differences. This suggests that respondents exposed to the peacebuilding program at baseline were more likely to increase their preference for direct confrontation as a conflict resolution method. However, these effects became statistically insignificant after including control variables.

Similarly, respondents who received the treatment at the endline were more likely to show increased preferences for direct confrontation, with a significant effect at the 10 percent level for appropriateness, but no significant effect for effectiveness. Again, these effects were no longer statistically significant after controlling for other variables.

The interaction term reflects the effect for respondents who received peacebuilding information at both baseline and endline (i.e., those who were treated before and after the project's implementation). For these respondents, there was a tendency towards a decreased preference for direct confrontation as a conflict resolution method. This effect was significant at the 10 percent level for appropriateness, but it became non-significant once control variables were added.

As shown in columns 2 and 4 of Table 11, several factors influenced how perceptions of direct confrontation changed over time. Demographic factors played a key role: females were more likely than males to shift their preferences toward direct confrontation as an appropriate and effective strategy. Younger respondents were also more likely to increase their preference for direct confrontation as an effective method for resolving disputes.

Past experiences also shaped these shifts. Respondents who faced higher levels of deprivation were less likely to change their views toward direct confrontation as an appropriate or effective method. On the other hand, respondents who had experienced evictions were more likely to endorse direct confrontation as an appropriate conflict resolution strategy. Finally, participation in the peacebuilding project was negatively associated with a shift toward endorsing direct confrontation as an effective method, and this effect was statistically significant.

Table 11 – Direct confrontation differences in appropriateness and effectiveness score between 2024 and 2022 (differences – baseline and endline survey)

	(1) Difference in appropriateness	(2) Difference in appropriateness	(3) Difference in effectiveness	(4) Difference in effectiveness
<i>Peacebuilding information at baseline</i>	0.542 (0.077)	0.283 (0.283)	0.452 (0.095)	0.138 (0.533)
<i>Peacebuilding information at endline</i>	0.560 (0.075)	0.431 (0.108)	0.270 (0.330)	0.097 (0.666)
<i>Peacebuilding information at both: baseline and endline</i>	-0.609 (0.096)	-0.357 (0.254)	-0.426 (0.187)	-0.138 (0.599)
Female		0.300* (0.042)		0.234 (0.060)
Young (29 or less)		0.174 (0.295)		0.469*** (0.001)
High deprivation		-0.858***		-0.422***

		(0.000)		(0.000)
Has land certainty		1.686*** (0.000)		1.663*** (0.000)
Has been evicted		0.197 (0.221)		0.217 (0.108)
Has participated in Joint Program		-0.637* (0.019)		-0.366 (0.110)
Mean Outcome in Control	-0.452	-0.452	-0.667	-0.667
Adjusted R-squared	0.001	0.280	-0.000	0.349
Number of observations	528	528	528	528

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

C. Findings II – Perceptions on Local Peaceful Approach

Table 12 presents the results on perceptions regarding the appropriateness, effectiveness, and access of local formal channels for dispute resolution, which specifically refer to engaging in the dialogue spaces that are to be improved through the peacebuilding intervention.

The results shown in the table suggest that exposure to peacebuilding information does not significantly affect perceptions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and access of local peaceful resolution methods (consistent with the model without control variables presented in Table B1 in the appendix). The coefficients are small and not significant, and their direction is also not consistent. However, the results again suggest that while age do not appear to influence perceptions, gender does to some extent. Females tend to give a higher score to effectiveness and accessibility of this approach compared to males. Similarly, experiences of deprivation, having secure land tenure, and having been evicted in the past, does influence perceptions. Economically deprived respondents are more likely to think that local solution is effective compared to less deprived individuals. Respondents with land tenure certainty tend to perceive this approach as more appropriate and accessible than those without land certainty. Notably, respondents who have experienced evictions are significantly less likely to perceive the local solution as appropriate for conflict resolution.

Table 12 - Local solution perceptions appropriateness, effectiveness, and accessibility (levels – endline survey)

	(1) Thinks local solution is appropriate	(2) Thinks local solution is effective	(3) Thinks local solution is accessible
Peacebuilding information	-0.016 (0.569)	0.004 (0.859)	-0.023 (0.378)
Female	0.038 (0.203)	0.061* (0.025)	0.081** (0.004)
Young (29 or less)	0.003 (0.935)	-0.015 (0.633)	0.012 (0.710)

High deprivation	0.038 (0.164)	0.050* (0.044)	0.042 (0.100)
Has land certainty	0.086** (0.006)	0.023 (0.428)	0.060* (0.039)
Has been evicted	0.025 (0.436)	-0.059* (0.048)	-0.080** (0.009)
Has participated in Joint Program	0.020 (0.712)	0.054 (0.277)	0.087 (0.092)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.910	0.916	0.927
Adjusted R-squared	0.028	0.017	0.042
Number of observations	529	529	529

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

D. Findings III – Perceptions on Distant Peaceful Approach

In Table 13, we examine treatment effects on perceptions of distant institutions, which are an interesting comparison as they are not directly targeted by the project. In line with previous findings, the results indicate that exposure to peacebuilding information does not have a (robust) significant influence on perceptions of the appropriateness, effectiveness, and access of the distant resolution methods. The coefficients are close to zero and not significant, and these results are consistent with the model without control variables (see Table B2 in the appendix).

In contrast, several socio-economic factors were found to influence these perceptions. For example, being female was associated with a higher likelihood of perceiving distant solutions as effective and accessible, as evidenced by the positive and significant coefficients in columns (2) and (3). Additionally, respondents with land certainty were significantly less likely to view distant solutions as appropriate, effective, or accessible, with large and statistically significant negative coefficients across all three outcomes. On the other hand, respondents who had been evicted were more likely to see distant solutions as appropriate.

Participation in the Joint Program also showed some positive effects, particularly on the perceived effectiveness of distant solutions (column 2), where it was statistically significant at the 1 percent level

Table 13 - Distant solution appropriateness, effectiveness, and accessibility (levels – endline survey)

	(1) Thinks distant solution is appropriate	(2) Thinks distant solution is effective	(3) Thinks distant solution is accessible
Peacebuilding information	0.016 (0.671)	0.030 (0.394)	0.035 (0.338)
Female	0.008 (0.833)	0.090* (0.017)	0.077 (0.052)
Young (29 or less)	-0.057	-0.081	-0.080

	(0.208)	(0.055)	(0.075)
High deprivation	-0.033 (0.378)	0.000 (0.998)	-0.006 (0.872)
Has land certainty	-0.107* (0.011)	-0.177*** (0.000)	-0.154*** (0.000)
Has been evicted	0.152*** (0.001)	0.036 (0.375)	-0.009 (0.836)
Has participated in Joint Program	0.008 (0.919)	0.211** (0.002)	0.126 (0.095)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.781	0.792	0.768
Adjusted R-squared	0.025	0.067	0.044
Number of observations	528	530	528

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

E. Findings IV – Donation propensity/altruism

The final set of results, presented in Table 14, examine treatment effects on the measures of altruism towards the out-group. More specifically, the outcomes are the willingness to contribute resources to aid another community in need, i.e., a binary indicator for this being the outcome in Column (1); and a binary indicator for willingness to donate a high amount in Column (2). As shown in the table, the vast majority of those in the control group (87 percent) were willing to contribute resources, and this appears to not differ by treatment or programming information received. Similarly, column (2) shows that 57 percent of those in the control were willing to donate a high amount; and while the treatment group is slightly less likely to report a high donation amount, the coefficient is small and not statistically significant. As such, we conclude there to be no significant impacts of information provision regarding the peacebuilding project on this outcome (consistent with results of the model without control variables in Table B3 in the appendix).

As also shown, and consistent with the findings thus far, individual experiences have some role on our measures of altruism. Notably, females and individuals that are more deprived are less inclined to donate a high amount; and those with land certainty are more inclined to give a donation.

Table 14 - Donation propensity (levels – endline survey)

	(1) Would donate to help	(2) Would donate a high amount
<i>Peacebuilding information</i>	0.036 (0.193)	-0.037 (0.409)
Female	0.033 (0.273)	-0.121* (0.013)
Young (29 or less)	0.053	0.112*

	(0.119)	(0.039)
High deprivation	-0.041 (0.135)	-0.192*** (0.000)
Has land certainty	0.170*** (0.000)	0.089 (0.081)
Has been evicted	0.013 (0.684)	-0.066 (0.212)
Has participated in Joint Program	0.032 (0.562)	-0.150 (0.093)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.871	0.567
Adjusted R-squared	0.077	0.058
Number of observations	530	530

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$

6. Discussion of the Results

Descriptive findings: The study provides valuable insights into the demographic, socioeconomic, and political conditions of the communities targeted by the peacebuilding intervention, comparing data from before and after the project. The findings reveal several ongoing challenges: widespread poverty, significant barriers to accessing basic services, and prevalent mental health issues. Additionally, many community members lack legal ownership of their land, and those who have experienced eviction in the past continue to live in fear of further displacement, often accompanied by violence. Despite these difficulties, perceptions of life satisfaction and future outlook improved significantly by the end of the project.

The data also highlight the strong social and political ties within these communities. These communities are well-organized and cohesive, with active participation in local dialogue spaces and high engagement in the peacebuilding project itself. While trust in formal public institutions is low, trust in community leaders to address local issues is relatively higher. Social trust within families and local networks is also robust, accompanied by a strong sense of altruism. However, this trust and altruism diminish when extended to broader social groups or outsiders.

While some respondents justified the use of violence in specific situations, the overall trend across the community is a rejection of violence as a means of resolving conflict. This indicates that social cohesion and a preference for peaceful conflict resolution within familiar social circles remain core elements of community life.

The survey further explored the community's preferences for conflict resolution. A notable finding is that the community strongly favors resolving disputes peacefully at the local level, a preference that remained consistent from baseline to endline. Support for national-level institutions to resolve disputes is also high but showed a decline at the endline.

In terms of direct confrontation as a conflict resolution method, the baseline results showed that while it was generally viewed as inappropriate, many still considered it effective for the types of disputes discussed in the study. By the endline, the percentage of respondents who considered direct confrontation appropriate increased slightly, while the percentage who viewed it as effective decreased. This suggests that, even if direct confrontation is still seen as a potential resolution in some cases, its perceived effectiveness may be waning. This shift is significant because the perception of effectiveness plays a key role in whether or not such methods are used. As the perception of direct confrontation's effectiveness declines, the likelihood of it being used as a conflict resolution method, and potentially escalating to violence, may decrease.

From these findings, it appears that the project's impact is likely to be most effective in reducing perceptions of the effectiveness of direct confrontation as a conflict resolution strategy. This, in turn, could help minimize the likelihood of violence in the community, especially if more peaceful alternatives become seen as equally or more effective.

Causal findings: The causal component of this study investigates whether providing information about the project influences preferences for conflict resolution. The analysis not only examines the impact of the informational "prime" itself (i.e., varying levels of information provision) but also its relationship with the implementation of the intervention. This is designed to approximate the impact of the intervention, by testing the extent to which this information and the time it was given interacts with the implementation.

It is important to emphasize that the findings from this analysis should not be interpreted as reflecting the overall impact of the project. Rather, the focus is on assessing the extent to which information determines attitudes, and whether or not the implementation of the intervention influences this. This is designed to capture the extent to which, if at all, the implementation of the intervention leaves an attitudinal legacy. In other words, this study examines how different levels of information provision influence participants' choices and whether the implementation of the intervention changes these responses.

Broadly speaking, the results shown are statistically insignificant. This means that the informational primes do not appear to have resulted in measurable shifts in attitudes or intended behaviors in most domains. In some cases, this is perhaps not surprising. At baseline, for example, attitudes regarding the acceptability and effectiveness of both local and national level mediation systems (so-called "peaceful solutions") are already high. This, in effect, creates a ceiling, as it is very difficult to improve from a situation where a vast majority of people think something is both effective and appropriate. By contrast, however, information does appear to play an important role in determining attitudes towards the appropriateness of direct confrontation. In particular, those who are reminded of the need for the intervention at baseline and endline reduce their perceptions about the appropriateness of direct confrontation. By contrast, those who only receive this information appear to believe that violence is more appropriate than the sample as a whole. Although not universally positive, these results suggest that information regarding the intervention plays an important role, interacts with the implementation of the intervention and can leave positive (as well as negative) attitudinal legacies.

Table 15 – Summary of results of experimental approach

	Conflict resolution approaches			
	Direct confrontation (levels)	Direct confrontation (differences)	Peaceful local (levels)	Peaceful national (levels)
Peacebuilding information at endline	Negative (no significant)	Positive (significant)	No effect (no significant)	No effect (no significant)
Peacebuilding information at baseline	-	Positive (significant)	-	-
Peacebuilding information at both: baseline and endline	-	Negative (significant)	-	-
Female	Positive (significant)	-	Positive (significant)	Positive (significant)
Young	No effect (no significant)	-	No effect (no significant)	Negative (no significant)
High deprivation	Negative (significant)	-	Positive (significant)	No effect (no significant)
Land certainty	No effect (no significant)	-	Positive (significant)	Negative (significant)
Eviction experience	Positive (significant)	-	Negative (significant)	Positive (significant)
Joint Program participation	No effect (no significant)	-	Positive (no significant)	Positive (significant)

7. Conclusions

This impact evaluation is among the first efforts to attempt to understand the effectiveness of interventions designed to boost the capacities of local conflict resolution institutions to mediate disputes and resolve them peacefully. Our analyses reveals that the communities under study, in the Polochic Valley, experience a range of hardships pertaining to poverty, stress-related symptoms³¹ and insecure land rights. How these outcomes link to land-based conflicts in the area, therefore, broadly fits the wider theory of change of the intervention.

The main causal analyses show that, even at baseline, individuals already have very strong and positive perceptions of the effectiveness and appropriateness of peaceful, mediated, approaches to dispute resolution. In contrast, baseline data also indicate that while violence is generally viewed as inappropriate, it is still seen by many as an effective means of conflict resolution. This opens the potential that, despite generally positive attitudes towards peaceful forms of dispute resolution, that violence could still happen – not least in situations where other forms of resolution might not be available. For this reason, the analysis focuses on attitudes toward potentially violent forms of conflict resolution. In these communities, “violence” is typically understood to include threats, intimidation, physical confrontation, and, in some cases, protest or acts of resistance—rather than organized or armed conflict. Importantly, perceptions of violence as effective declined from baseline to endline, suggesting growing trust in peaceful alternatives and a potential shift away from confrontational approaches over time.

Specifically, we vary the type of information individuals, living within the supporting communities, are given at both baseline and endline. Some individuals receive information with regards to the intervention under study, while others receive information about an unrelated intervention that should not link to attitudes on conflict resolution. The purpose of this is to test the role of information in determining outcomes and to test whether or not the implementation of the intervention changes individuals’ attitudes. Main statistical results show that individuals who receive information, both before and after the intervention, exhibit reduced (that is, better) perceptions of the appropriateness of the use of violence as a conflict resolution tool at endline than those who received other forms of intervention. This suggests the potential, both, that the implementation of the intervention leaves an attitudinal legacy in individuals living in the areas supported and that these effects can change, positively, attitudes towards the use of violence in dispute resolution.

At the same time, it is important to note that these results stop short of a full causal attribution of these effects to the program. Rather, it hints towards the role that implementing the intervention has had on how individuals respond to prompts. While this allows us to tell a positive story, the results and conclusions should be understood in this context. Future work might like to extend the frameworks used in this analysis, in order to understand interventions of this sort in a more general way.

³¹ While no formal mental health diagnoses were conducted, reported experiences align with patterns of elevated stress observed in other settings and should be interpreted with caution.

That said, given the absence of other comparable evaluations, these results still represented an important first piece of evidence, supporting the effectiveness of interventions that aim to build and / or improve local dispute resolution institutions.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Supplementary Summary Statistics

Distribution of trust measures: the following figures are supplementary descriptive statistics for the sample across the measures of trust for relevant stakeholders.

Figure A1: Trust in key actors and institutions

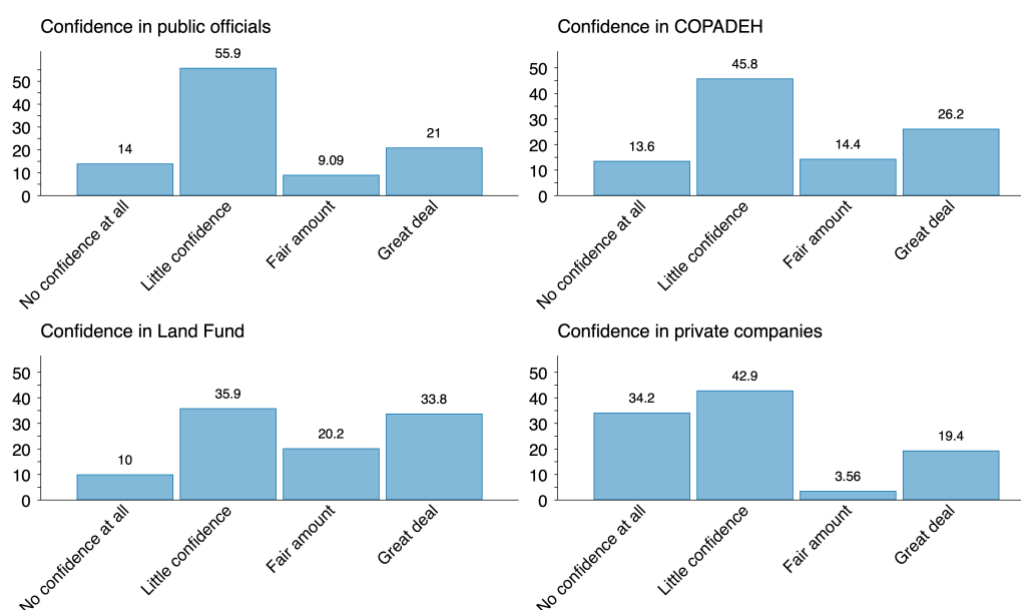
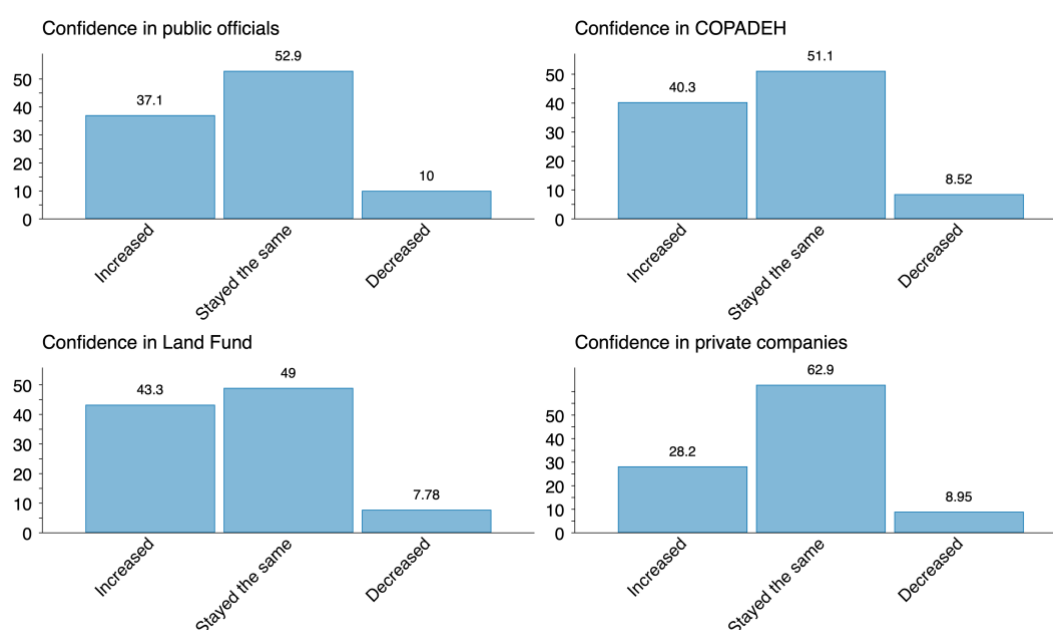


Figure A2: Trust in key actors and institutions – change over the last year



Balance checks: the following table reports tests of balance across the two groups in the experimental framework, showing that most variables are balanced across individuals in the control and treatment group.

Table A1: Randomization balance tests (Endline Survey)

	Mean Control (1)	Diff T - C (2)	N
Is female	0.69 (0.46)	0.00 [0.98]	529
Age (reported)	41.63 (13.92)	0.62 [0.65]	529
Number in household	6.32 (2.92)	-0.02 [0.95]	529
Can read/write	0.51 (0.50)	-0.01 [0.90]	529
Main income source: subsistence farming activities	0.51 (0.50)	0.09* [0.05]	529
Food deprivation frequent in past year	0.95 (0.22)	-0.03 [0.22]	529
Water deprivation frequent in past year	0.93 (0.25)	0.02 [0.35]	529
Medicines deprivation frequent in past year	0.83 (0.38)	0.05 [0.14]	529
Fuel deprivation frequent in past year	0.91 (0.29)	-0.00 [0.90]	529
Cash deprivation frequent in past year	0.97 (0.17)	-0.05** [0.02]	529
Land tenure certainty	0.47 (0.50)	-0.03 [0.53]	529
Has been evicted	0.63 (0.48)	-0.01 [0.76]	529
Evicted violently	0.87 (0.33)	0.03 [0.35]	327
Leader in the community	0.42 (0.49)	-0.01 [0.75]	529

Participates in social spaces	0.71 (0.46)	0.05 [0.20]	529
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Notes: The mean and standard deviation in the control is in column (1); columns (2) show the difference in means for each treatment compared to the control, with p-value from tests comparing these means reported in square brackets. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Outcome variable descriptives: tables A2 and A3 show summary statistics for the measures on perceptions towards the three resolution approaches for the intercommunity conflict across the sample at baseline and endline, respectively.

Table A2: Descriptive Statistics - Outcome variables, Baseline Survey

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Perceptions on Direct Confrontation Approach					
Perceived appropriateness of direct confrontation	2.30	1.25	1.00	4.00	671
Thinks direct confrontation is an appropriate solution	0.39	0.49	0.00	1.00	671
Perceived effectiveness of direct confrontation	2.92	1.29	1.00	4.00	670
Thinks direct confrontation is an effective solution	0.64	0.48	0.00	1.00	670
B. Perceptions on Local Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of local-formal solution	3.51	0.83	1.00	4.00	410
Thinks a local peaceful solution is appropriate	0.90	0.29	0.00	1.00	410
Perceived effectiveness of local-formal solution	3.69	0.68	1.00	4.00	413
Thinks a local-formal solution is effective	0.91	0.29	0.00	1.00	413
C. Perceptions on Distant Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of distant-formal solution	3.45	0.86	1.00	4.00	281
Thinks a distant-formal solution is appropriate	0.88	0.33	0.00	1.00	281
Perceived effectiveness of distant-formal solution	3.47	0.87	1.00	4.00	282
Thinks a distant-formal solution is effective	0.85	0.36	0.00	1.00	282

Table A3: Descriptive Statistics - Outcome variables, Endline Survey

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Perceptions on Direct Confrontation Approach					
Perceived appropriateness of direct confrontation	2.37	1.16	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks direct confrontation is an appropriate solution	0.41	0.49	0.00	1.00	528
Perceived effectiveness of direct confrontation	2.35	1.26	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks direct confrontation is an effective solution	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.00	528
B. Perceptions on Local Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of local-formal solution	3.48	0.73	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks a local peaceful solution is appropriate	0.90	0.30	0.00	1.00	528
Perceived effectiveness of local-formal solution	3.57	0.65	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks a local-formal solution is effective	0.92	0.27	0.00	1.00	528
Perceived accessibility of local solution	3.50	0.68	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks a local peaceful solution is accessible	0.91	0.29	0.00	1.00	528
Reasons inaccessible: It is too costly	0.96	0.20	0.00	1.00	47
Reason inaccessible: Language barriers	0.28	0.45	0.00	1.00	47

Reason inaccessible: Bureaucracy barriers	0.06	0.25	0.00	1.00	47
Reason inaccessible: I don't know how to access	0.02	0.15	0.00	1.00	47
Reason inaccessible: Lack of trust	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47

C. Perceptions on Distant Solution

Perceived appropriateness of distant-formal solution	3.21	0.83	1.00	4.00	527
Thinks a distant-formal solution is appropriate	0.79	0.41	0.00	1.00	527
Perceived effectiveness of distant-formal solution	3.23	0.82	1.00	4.00	529
Thinks a distant-formal solution is effective	0.81	0.39	0.00	1.00	529
Perceived accessibility of distant solution	3.21	0.85	1.00	4.00	527
Thinks a distant-formal solution is accessible	0.79	0.41	0.00	1.00	527
Reasons inaccessible: It is too costly	0.93	0.26	0.00	1.00	109
Reason inaccessible: Language barriers	0.14	0.35	0.00	1.00	109
Reason inaccessible: Bureaucracy barriers	0.13	0.34	0.00	1.00	109
Reason inaccessible: I don't know how to access	0.03	0.16	0.00	1.00	109
Reason inaccessible: Lack of trust	0.02	0.13	0.00	1.00	109

Table A4: Descriptive Statistics- Outcome variables, Endline Survey – Conflict with private company

	Mean	SD	Min	Max	N
A. Perceptions on Direct Confrontation Approach					
Perceived appropriateness of direct confrontation	2.95	1.17	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks direct confrontation is an appropriate solution	0.64	0.48	0.00	1.00	528
Perceived effectiveness of direct confrontation	2.88	1.22	1.00	4.00	526
Thinks direct confrontation is an effective solution	0.68	0.47	0.00	1.00	526
B. Perceptions on Local Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of local-formal solution	3.38	0.77	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks a local peaceful solution is appropriate	0.85	0.36	0.00	1.00	528
Perceived effectiveness of local-formal solution	3.38	0.79	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks a local-formal solution is effective	0.83	0.37	0.00	1.00	528
Perceived accessibility of local solution	3.40	0.77	1.00	4.00	528
Thinks a local peaceful solution is accessible	0.85	0.36	0.00	1.00	528
Reasons inaccessible: It is too costly	0.46	0.50	0.00	1.00	80
Reason inaccessible: Language barriers	0.11	0.32	0.00	1.00	80
Reason inaccessible: Bureaucracy barriers	0.07	0.27	0.00	1.00	80
Reason inaccessible: I don't know how to access	0.01	0.11	0.00	1.00	80
Reason inaccessible: Lack of trust	0.49	0.50	0.00	1.00	80
C. Perceptions on Distant Solution					
Perceived appropriateness of distant-formal solution	3.48	0.63	1.00	4.00	529
Thinks a distant-formal solution is appropriate	0.93	0.25	0.00	1.00	529

Perceived effectiveness of distant-formal solution	3.51	0.68	1.00	4.00	529
Thinks a distant-formal solution is effective	0.91	0.28	0.00	1.00	529
Perceived accessibility of distant solution	3.49	0.68	1.00	4.00	525
Thinks a distant-formal solution is accessible	0.91	0.28	0.00	1.00	525
Reasons inaccessible: It is too costly	0.85	0.36	0.00	1.00	46
Reason inaccessible: Language barriers	0.15	0.36	0.00	1.00	46
Reason inaccessible: Bureaucracy barriers	0.13	0.34	0.00	1.00	46
Reason inaccessible: I don't know how to access	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46
Reason inaccessible: Lack of trust	0.02	0.15	0.00	1.00	46

Appendix B: Supplementary Experimental Results

Results – On Local Solution Perceptions: the following table presents the model estimating treatment effects on perceptions of the local solution, without the inclusion of the set of covariates.

Table B1 - Local solution perceptions appropriateness, effectiveness, and accessibility

	(1) Thinks local solution is appropriate	(2) Thinks local solution is effective	(3) Thinks local solution is accessible
Peacebuilding information	-0.018 (0.510)	0.004 (0.858)	-0.024 (0.364)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.910	0.916	0.927
Adjusted R-squared	-0.001	-0.002	-0.000
Number of observations	529	529	529

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Results – On Formal Solution Perceptions: the following table presents the model estimating treatment effects on perceptions of the formal distant solution, without the inclusion of the set of covariates.

Table B2 - Distant solution appropriateness, effectiveness, and accessibility

	(1) Thinks distant solution is appropriate	(2) Thinks distant solution is effective	(3) Thinks distant solution is accessible
Peacebuilding information	0.016 (0.665)	0.032 (0.377)	0.038 (0.311)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.781	0.792	0.768
Adjusted R-squared	-0.002	-0.000	0.000
Number of observations	528	530	528

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Results – On Altruism Perceptions: the following table presents the model estimating treatment effects on the measures of altruism, here without the inclusion of the set of covariates.

Table B3 - Donation propensity

	(1) Would donate to help	(2) Would donate a high amount
Peacebuilding information	0.030 (0.301)	-0.039 (0.396)
Mean Outcome in Control	0.871	0.567
Adjusted R-squared	0.000	-0.001
Number of observations	530	530

Notes: p-values in parentheses. Significant coefficients as: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$.

Appendix C: Study Protocols and Procedures

The following materials are the precise scripts used during the information dissemination portion of the survey; as well as the vignettes that were used to introduce the conflict scenario. In addition, the narratives for outcome measurement are provided, i.e., the possible approaches to resolving the conflict, which respondents then had to rate. Furthermore, the questionnaire used for the endline data collection is also included.

Table C1: Audio transcript of information provision

	Treatment	Control
M	A pleasure to greet you my friend Carmen, I have just heard about a program that was implemented in the Polochic Valley and wondered if you'd heard anything about it?	
F	No, I don't think so! Can you tell me a little about it?	
M	It was a program recently implemented in the Polochic Valley by United Nations agencies whose objective was to prevent and manage agrarian conflicts in our area.	This program was implemented by United Nations agencies and aimed to connect family farming with the school feeding system. The primary goal of the program was to address the issue of malnutrition, especially prevalent in rural regions of Guatemala, including the departments in the Polochic Valley.
F	And why did we need this program?	
M	Well, as you know, in the Polochic Valley we have problems of agrarian conflict, due to historical inequalities over land access and use. These tensions, which affect communities, private companies, and public institutions, have not been resolved for years. In addition, in recent decades we have experienced a strong process of land re-concentration by national and foreign investors to produce agricultural products, such as sugar cane, for example, and for the installation of mining and energy projects. This has particularly affected communities in the area that depend primarily on agriculture for their livelihoods. As a result, these tensions have led to disputes, violence and forced evictions of communities. This is why this program focuses on addressing this issue, to reduce conflicts between people living in our communities, to overcome the issues that cause these conflicts and to support our communities going forward.	Well, as you know, child malnutrition is a very serious problem in Guatemala, particularly in rural settings where access to adequate nutrition is limited. In the Polochic Valley, a considerable number of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition. Additionally, food insecurity is a daily reality for many residents in this area. Children with poor nutrition not only face challenges in their physical and cognitive development, but they also tend to have weakened immune systems, making them more susceptible to illnesses. Malnutrition compromises the body's ability to fight off infections and illnesses effectively, leading to a higher frequency of illnesses and longer recovery times. Additionally, malnourished children often experience growth stunting, which can have long-term effects on their overall health and well-being. Stunting not only affects physical growth but also impacts cognitive development, leading to difficulties in learning and a lower academic achievement later in life. Moreover, malnutrition can result in micronutrient deficiencies, such as iron

	Treatment	Control
		deficiency anemia and vitamin deficiencies, which further exacerbate health problems and hinder children's growth and development. These deficiencies can have lasting effects on a child's health, potentially leading to long-term health complications if not addressed early on. That is why this program focused on addressing this issue by providing healthy meals to children on the school system. This ensures that our children receive the nutrition and care required for the development of their full cognitive potential and an optimal health and well-being.
F	How interesting! Can you tell me about the different parts of the program to solve these problems?	
M	First, the program aimed to improve the capacities of public institutions in charge of conflict management. To this end, it provided tools and trained public officials so that they could serve us better and in a culturally relevant manner. The trainings included public officials from institutions involved in agrarian conflicts. These trainings emphasized international human rights standards, land governance and food security. In doing so, they provided officials with the necessary skills for inclusive dialogue and mediation in agrarian conflicts, along with tools for recording and following up on cases. The second component is very relevant to our communities. The program selected communities in Alta Verapaz and Izabal, with whom it worked closely on issues of conflict management and efficient land use.	Sure! First, through the program, around 12,000 children in the public school system were benefited with more nutritious and diverse meals in their schools. Second, business opportunities were created for small farmers in the area. This was done by connecting small family farmers with the school education system. In other words, the food produced by the farmers was used in the lunches of the children in the schools of the municipalities. This program achieves two objectives at the same time. By linking family farming to a school feeding program, we are helping local family farms by creating a market for the products they grow and produce. On the other hand, by providing this food to children in schools, we are helping to ensure their nutrition is improved.
F	This sounds great! And what kind of actions were carried out in the communities?	I think it is very important and necessary to address the problem of child malnutrition in this area! And I think it is great that at the same time support is being given to family farming in these difficult times.
M	First of all, a diagnosis was made to understand in depth the needs of the communities. Community leaders were trained to develop conflict mediation skills in order to better represent their communities at	I agree Carmen and that's not all. In addition, the program focused on promoting culturally relevant menus in the school feeding system, using local products. This means that children received traditional

	Treatment	Control
	roundtables and in dialogue spaces. The trainings especially promoted women's and youth leadership. Community exchanges were also held where leaders were able to share experiences in conflict management. Participants in these spaces were able to share their experiences in land tenure regularization processes. That is, leaders of communities with regularized tenure were able to explain and give recommendations on these processes to leaders of communities that have not yet regularized their land tenure. In addition, community members were trained in the use of tools to improve land governance with the use of technology. This helped us decide how to use the land, what and where to plant our crops, where to locate our community hall, our houses, where to locate water sources, define responsibilities over the use of collective use areas, and know how much our land measures. Community registries were created in which we were able to identify our territorial limits, define family zones where we located our houses and collective use zones where we located, for example, the school, the soccer field, or the church. Community regulations were also created to help us plan internal land use and define our collective rights and obligations over the land. These regulations helped us to distribute tasks for the care of the collective use areas. In addition, recommendations were made regarding land tenure relationships and distribution of rights among families. This helps us to define, for example, how families can make new land divisions for new generations.	lunches, such as “pachay y tayuyos”, and very nutritious, delicious, and healthy!
F	I find all of this very relevant for communities in this area! I am glad to hear this program was implemented here.	I think this kind of program is important to improve the nutrition and food security of the children and families in the area! At the same time, I believe it is very important to support small farmers, their families and their communities. I hope that programs and initiatives like this will continue to be created! This is essential to offer our sons and daughters a better future!
M	I agree Carmen...and another component of the program strengthened the dialogue roundtables to make them more inclusive and with a human rights approach. More specifically, three dialogue tables	I agree, ... as well as helping children, I think all this allows for their growth and development, and strengthens our cultural identity.

	Treatment	Control
	were reactivated, both at the departmental and municipal levels. These roundtables bring together all the actors involved in the conflicts, including the leaders of the communities involved with the accompaniment of civil society organizations. The roundtables provide an in-depth review of the background of the tenure situations and seek more peaceful solutions to the conflicts. In summary, through all these actions the intervention sought to create an environment in which conflicts can be resolved peacefully and sustainably, fostering stability and improved livelihoods in the region.	
F	Thank you, Pedro! I think this program means a step towards consolidating peace in our communities! Now, I must go to my community as there is an assembly meeting and I would like to talk to the community about this program.	
M	See you later, Carmen! Have a beautiful day	

Table C2: Audio transcript of outcomes measurement (vignette 1)

Vignette 1: Intercommunity conflict - Eliciting preferences for conflict resolution and donation propensity	
Introduction	Please listen carefully to the following story that occurred many years ago in the Polochic Valley. Once upon a time, two neighboring communities had a good relationship with each other. One day the two communities held "rozas" (fire) or burnings on the borders of both communities, on the same day and time. But a problem arose when one of the fires, carelessly and uncontrolled by the wind, reached some seedlings, damaging someone else's crops. The affected neighbors were very upset and asked to be paid for the damage caused. Upon seeing this, the leaders of the two communities met to see who was responsible. The leaders tried to identify the culprit(s), without obtaining the desired results. The affected neighbors blamed both communities and the two communities blamed each other. In one of the two communities, they held an assembly to decide how to deal with this problem. The community leader gave the floor to the community members to give their opinion on what to do about the situation.
Violent informal approach	First Juan took the floor and said: "No, we do not have to take responsibility for this problem. It is their fault, and it is not fair. We have to stand firm in our position and demand to our neighbors to take charge of solving it. If that means we have to confront them physically and make them see our point of view, so be it!"
Local peaceful approach	Ricardo then took the floor and said "I think we should dialogue with the other community and seek the support of the departmental dialogue tables. For example, one community can buy the seeds, and the other can take care of the planting. The dialogue table can help us to decide who is doing what. That way, we can solve the problem without confrontation".
Distant peaceful approach	Carlos then took the floor and said "I think we should go to the Public Prosecutor's Office. Present our case, and have the authorities investigate and help us solve this problem. Let's trust in the institutions and resolve this without confrontation".
Now, we would like to ask you, what do you think about this situation and how would you solve it?	
Donation propensity	Imagine that you live in a neighboring community that was not directly affected by this fire. The leader of the affected community, who lost their harvest, asks for the support of your community as they have lost a large part of their food for the season.

	Would you agree with your community giving a portion of your own harvest to the affected community to help them get through the season? How much of your harvest do you think your community should donate?
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Table D3: Audio transcript of outcomes measurement (vignette 2)

Vignette 2: Conflict with Private Company - Eliciting preferences for conflict resolution	
Introduction	Please listen carefully to the following story that occurred many years ago in the Polochic Valley. Once upon a time, there was a Q'eqchi' community that lived in a territory, cultivating the land and harvesting corn, beans, and wheat each season to feed the families of the community. But one day a problem arose when representatives of a new private company in the area approached to ask for a meeting with the community leaders. The company representative told the leaders, "Our company has bought this land from your neighbor. Therefore, from the beginning of next year, we will use it to produce sugar cane for export." The representative continued: "that is why we kindly ask you to relocate your homes and crops to a new place next season." "However, we understand that the community depends on this land to survive, and we do not want problems with you. That is why we want to offer compensation by hiring community members as labor in our plantation, paying the minimum wage. With this, you will be able to support and feed your families" The leaders, concerned by this situation, held an assembly to decide how to deal with this problem. The community leader gave the floor to the community members to give their opinion on what to do about the situation.
Violent informal approach	First, Carmela took the floor and said: "This is not fair, we have worked this land, our crops are there, and it belongs to us. They have no right to ask us to move. We will not move from our land. If that means they will send the police and there will be a physical confrontation with them, so be it!"
Local peaceful approach	Then, Emilia took the floor and said "I think we should seek the support of the departmental dialogue tables to discuss with the company representatives. The dialogue tables will help us clarify the issue and find a solution that benefits everyone. This way, we can solve the problem without confrontations".
Distant peaceful approach	Lastly, Maria took the floor and said "I think we should go to the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office. Present our case, and have the authorities investigate and help us solve this problem. Let's make use of the institutions and avoid a physical confrontation."
Now, we would like to ask you, what do you think about this situation and how would you solve it?	

PeaceFIELD2 - Guatemala

“Polochic Valley 2024: Micro-Evaluation Survey Questionnaire - Endline”

INTERVIEW DETAILS [Automatically captured meta-data]			
Start time of interview:	Day :	Month:	Year:
End time of interview:			
Interview Duration Interview ID		[Capture Number]	
Device ID Device Phone Number			

SECTION 0: Introduction and Informed Consent

Welcome to the "Polochic Valley 2024" Survey. Please swipe forward to continue.

Interviewer ID	[Select one “Enumerator” ID]
Interviewer Name	[Confirm Enumerator Name]

[Introduction]: Hello! My name is \${en_name}, and I collaborate with a team of researchers from the organization Sotzil and ISDC. We are currently conducting a survey commissioned by the United Nations PBF targeting people living in communities located in the Polochic Valley, in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal. The goal of this research is to learn more about the situation of individuals from these communities – including their characteristics, experiences, and perceptions on issues relating to lands and livelihoods.

In November/December 2022 you already granted us valuable insights into your life experiences and perceptions relating to land and livelihoods. Having received numerous responses from you and other community members, you have made a significant contribution to our research and to a better understanding of living conditions and experiences of families from the area, and we would like to thank you for that.

Now we are interested on knowing how your perceptions and experiences have evolved over the past two years. Participating in this survey means responding to questions about your individual and family background and characteristics, livelihoods and food security, health, and experiences with land.

Before you decide whether you are willing to participate, there are three things you should know: 1. Your privacy is most important: any information you provide is completely confidential and will only be used for research purposes and to better understand the needs of your community. This means that the data you provide will be treated with complete anonymity, so no one will know that the answers came directly from you.	
2. It is your choice to participate: your participation in this survey is completely voluntary. This means that you should only participate of your own free will or choice. Also, you do not have to answer any questions that you are uncomfortable with. You can refuse to answer one or more questions.	
3. It will not take much time and it is safe: the survey should take approximately 45 minutes in total, and there are no foreseeable risks for your participation in this survey, nor are there any material benefits. This means that participating will not bring you any trouble, but neither will we give you anything in return for doing so. Our objective is to learn from you to better help your community.	
How will we use the information you give us? The information you share will be used only to better understand what it's like to live in your community and what challenges you face. We want to share what we learn with those who can make positive changes, such as the United Nations and other groups working in your area. We will share the results in <u>December 2024</u> with your community leaders through our partners at the United Nations. Your participation is crucial for the success of our research project and allows us to get a detailed insight into the living conditions and needs of your community. Before you decide whether you would like to participate or otherwise, we will now answer any questions you may have. Do you have any questions? Have you understood all the information provided to you?	
Given all this, would you like to continue and participate in this survey?	0= No 1= Yes
Thank you. I am going to quickly ask for your signature, and then we can begin. [Enumerator: Ask participant for their preferred signature format.]	1= E-signature (digital) 2= Fingerprint (on paper)
Please sign here: [Gather Signature]	
[Enumerator: please confirm the geographic location of the participant.]	
In which "Departamento" does the participant currently reside? {Select one}	1= Alta Verapaz 2= Izabal
In which "Municipio" does the participant currently reside? {Select one}	1= Panzos 2= Tukurú

	3= Senahu 4= El Estor
In which "Comunidad" does the participant currently reside?	[Select one "community"]

SECTION 1: Participant Background

We will begin by collecting some basic information about you.

What is your first name?	[Enter Name]
What is your family/last name?	[Enter Name]
What is your year of birth?	[Enter Year]
What is your month of birth?	[Select one "month"]
What is your day of birth? {Hint: if you are unsure, please feel free to consult your national ID}	[Enter Date]
Therefore, how old are you?	[Enter Age]
What is your gender?	[Select one "gender"]
Thank you \${name}. I would now like to ask you about your living situation.	
How did you arrive to this community / your current residence? {Select one}	[Select one "residence"]
How long ago did you arrive to this community? [If residence!=1]	[Select one "residence_dur"]

SECTION 2: Program Information Delivery

[Enumerator]: We will now ask you to listen to some information about a program that is has taken place in the region.

{Random draw: assignment to Group=1 | Group=2 | Group 3}

Please play the following audio for participant. [If Group=1]	[Audio "Control"]
Please play the following audio for participant. [If Group=2 Group=3]	[Audio "Treatment"]
[Enumerator]: Thank you. I will now ask you a couple of questions about this information you have just heard.	
Why did they say the program is needed? [If Group=1]	[Select one "checkcontrol"]
Why did they say the program is needed? [If Group=2 Group=3]	[Select one "checktreat"]

SECTION 3: Conflict Resolution Mechanism Preference - *Conflict Inter community*

[Enumerator]: I will ask you to listen to another story on the same radio program about two nearby communities. Please pay attention, as I will ask you a few questions about this story afterwards.

Please play the following audio for participant.	[Audio conflict inter-community]
How appropriate do you think the act suggested by Juan is: to go confront the other community, even if it goes to a physical confrontation? {Select one}	[Select "appropriate"]
How effective do you think this process that Juan suggest would be in resolving this conflict? {Select one}	[Select "effective"]
How appropriate do you think the act suggested by Ricardo is: to avoid a confrontation and instead dialogue with the other community to find a solution, going to the dialogue table? {Select one}	[Select "appropriate"]
How effective do you think this process that Ricardo suggest would be in resolving this conflict?	[Select one "effective"]
How accessible is to you the process described by Ricardo ? (i. e. dialogue tables)	[Select "accessible"]
For which of the following reasons do you think the process described by Ricardo is inaccessible? [If "accessible"=1 2"]	[Select one "reason_access"]
How appropriate do you think the act suggested by Carlos is: to avoid a confrontation by going to the ombudsmen, and asking them to open an investigation, and through this process, find a solution?	[Select one "appropriate"]
How effective do you think this process that Carlos suggest would be in resolving this conflict?	[Select one "effective"]
How accessible is to you the process described by Carlos ? (i. e. ombudsmen)	[Select "accessible"]

For which of the following reasons do you think the process described by Carlos is inaccessible? [If "accessible"=1 2"]	[Select one "reason_access"]
Imagine that you live in a neighboring community that was not directly affected by this fire. The leader of the affected community, who lost their harvest, asks for the support of your community as they have lost a large part of their food for the season.	
Would you agree with your community giving a portion of your own harvest to the affected community to help them get through the season? {Select one}	0= No 1= Yes
How much of your harvest do you think your community should donate? [If "donate"=1]	[Select one "donation"]

SECTION 4: Personality traits

How well do the following statements describe your personality?

Hint: No hay respuestas "correctas" o "incorrectas", debes responder a estas preguntas pensando sólo en cómo te comportas normalmente.

I see myself as someone who is reserved	[Select one "personality"]
I see myself as someone who is generally trusting	
I see myself as someone who tends to be lazy	
I see myself as someone who is relaxed, handles stress well	
I see myself as someone who has few artistic interests	
I see myself as someone who is outgoing, sociable	
I see myself as someone who tends to find fault with others	
I see myself as someone who does thorough job	
I see myself as someone who gets nervous easily	
I see myself as someone who has an active imagination	

SECTION 5: Demographics and SES

Thank you. The next questions are to understand more about your background and family situation.

What is your current marital status?	[Select one "marital"]
Are you able to read and write? {Select one}	0= No 1= Yes
How much formal education have you received?	[Select one "education"]
What was the last primary school grade you completed? [If "education"=2] {Select one}	[Select "primary"]
How many families live in your household? {Select one}	[Enter Number]
How many members are there in your family/household? {Select one}	[Enter Number]
Of these {hsize2} people in your family, how many are dependents on the household breadwinner? [Hint: I.e., children or elders?] [If "hsize">1] {Select one}	[Enter Number]
What is your main source of income? {Select one}	[Select "income"]
Please specify: [If "income"=77]	[Enter Text]
[Enumerator]: I would now like to ask about any hardships that you or your family may have experience in the past year / 12 months.	
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: Enough food to eat? {Select one}	[Select "enough"]
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: enough clean water for home use? {Select one}	[Select "enough"]
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: medicines or medical treatment? {Select one}	[Select "enough"]
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: enough fuel to cook your food? {Select one}	[Select "enough"]
Over the past year, how often, if ever, have you or anyone in your family gone without: a cash income? {Select one}	[Select "enough"]
[Enumerator]: I would now like to ask if you have been bothered by any of the following problems in the past 30 days (past month)?	
In the past 30 days: did you have frequent headaches? {Select one}	0= No 1 = Yes
In the past 30 days: have you been sleeping badly? {Select one}	
In the past 30 days: did you feel nervous, tense or worried? {Select one}	

In the past 30 days: did you have trouble thinking clearly ? {Select one}	
In the past 30 days: did you feel tired all the time ? {Select one}	
In the past 30 days: did you have uncomfortable feelings in your stomach ? {Select one}	
Do you think your economic situation will improve in the future? {Select one}	0= No 1 = Yes 88= Don't know
How do you expect life to be one year from now?	[Select one "expectation"]
On a scale of 1-5, where 1=completely dissatisfied to 5 = completely satisfied, how satisfied are you with your life in general?	[Enter Number]
I would now like to ask you about the place where you and your family are living, i.e. your current dwelling.	
How many rooms does the dwelling have? I.e., including detached rooms in same compound if same household.	[Enter Number]
What type of exterior walls does the dwelling have?	[Select one "walls"]
Please specify the wall material: [If "walls"=77]	[Enter Text]
What type of roofing material is used in the main house?	[Select one "roofing"]
Please specify the wall material: [If "roofing"=77]	[Enter Text]
What type of flooring does the dwelling have?	[Select one "flooring"]
Please specify the flooring material: [If "flooring"=77]	[Enter Text]
What type of toilet facility is available?	[Select one "toilet"]
Please specify the toilet facility: [If "toilet"=77]	[Enter Text]

SECTION 6 – Experiences and perceptions with land and conflict

[Enumerator]: I will now ask you about your own experiences with land.

Have you ever been evicted from a place/land you were residing on?	[Select one "evicted"]
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Did (any of) the eviction involve the use of force? [If “evicted”!=0 or “evicted”!=99] {Select one}	0 = No 1 = Yes
Were you physically harmed during (any of) the eviction(s)?	[Select one “harmed”]
When were you (last) evicted?	[Select one “residence_dur”]
Do you fear being evicted from the place/land you currently occupy/reside on?	[Select one “feareviction”]
Have you ever been physically harmed due to a dispute about any given land?	[Select one “freq”]
Have you ever been materially harmed due to a dispute about any given land? [Hint: burning of crops, loss of livestock, damage to housing, etc.]	
Do you fear being physically harmed from the place/land you currently occupy/reside on?	
Do you fear being materially harmed from the place/land you currently occupy/reside on?	
Has any member of your family suffered physical harm due to having settled on any given land?	
Has any member of your family suffered material harm due to having settled on any given land?	
Have you ever received threats due to having settled on any given land?	
Please indicate how much you feel the following statements apply to the place you live.	
I feel safe when I go out at night. {Select one}	[Select one “agree”]
I think I might encounter life threatening situations where I live.	
I am fearful for my life.	
I think there are security risks associated with participating in dialogue roundtables and spaces for the resolution of agrarian conflicts.	
Now, I would like to ask you some questions about your living situation and your future living situations. Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements:	
I have a secure tenure in my current land of residence	[Select one
I am worried about my residence in the future	“agree”]

SECTION 7: Trust, Social and Political Participation

Thank you. The last set of questions are to understand which activities you have participated in within your community.

Are you a leader or authority in your community assembly?

General Assembly Board of Directors	0= No 1= Yes
COCODE	
Pro-improvement committee	
Local authority (councilors)	
Indigenous mayor's office	
Women's committee	
Youth Committee	

Are you a member or involved in any community or social groups, such as:

Cultural groups;	0= No 1= Yes
Farmer cooperatives	
Church or Bible study groups (religious organization)?	
Community general assembly	
midwives	
health promoters	
spiritual guides	
committee of elders	
community promoters	

Are you a member of a social group? For e.g. sports, church groups, or community organizations?

Did you attend any local / community meetings in past year? (occur 2 or 3 times per year)...	0= No 1= Yes
Have you participated in dialogue spaces (activities where efforts are made to achieve a good for the community)?	

The following questions refer to your participation in dialogue spaces or negotiation tables (the following questions will be asked only if the previous answer is yes, i.e. the person has participated in the dialogue spaces)	
Have you discussed land issues with company or government representatives in meetings?	0= No 1= Yes
Do you feel informed about how to proceed in case of land conflicts after participating in the meetings?	
Do you know your rights when talking to people from companies or the government about your community in these meetings?	
Do you feel that your voice is heard in meetings about land conflicts?	
Do you feel that meetings with companies and government have helped reduce land conflicts in your community?	
Do you think that the decisions made in the meetings are fair for everyone?	
I am now going to ask you about your other activities and engagements, for example, church attendance and voting behavior. Please remember that this information is confidential, anonymized and only for research purposes.	
Did you vote/register to vote in any recent election within your community? E.g. a community organization.	0= No 1= Yes 88= Refuse to answer
Did you vote/register to vote in any recent general election (e.g., major, president, etc)?	0= No 1= Yes 88= Refuse to answer
Do you attend church regularly?	0= No 1= Yes
Did you (ever) take part in protest?	0= No 1= Yes 88= Refuse to answer
Next, I would like to know what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements	
"You can't be too careful in dealing with other people"	[Select one "agree"]
"Most people can be trusted"	
For the next questions, I want to know how much trust or confidence you have in the following institutions to enforce or to resolve local issues.	

How much confidence do you have in your (1) traditional leader to enforce or to resolve local issues?	[Select one "trust"]
How much confidence do you have in your (2) religious leader to enforce or to resolve local issues?	
How much confidence do you have in your (3) municipality (district/provincial government) to enforce or to resolve local issues?	
How much confidence do you have in your (4) governorate (district/provincial government) to enforce or to resolve local issues?	
How much confidence do you have in your (5) national government (president/ deputies/ ministers) to enforce or to resolve local issues?	
How much confidence do you have in the following groups or institutions?	
Public officials in general	[Select one "trust_scale"]
COPADEH	
Land Fund	
Private companies	
Police	
In the last year, how has your confidence in the following groups or institutions changed?	
Public officials in general	[Select one "trust_change"]
COPADEH	
Land Fund	
Private companies	
Police	
Finally, I would like to ask whether about your familiarity with programs occurring in your area.	
Do you know of the Joint program of Polochic Valley?	0= No 1= Somewhat 2= Yes
Did you directly participate in the activities of the Joint program of Polochic Valley?	[Select one "prog_activities"]

SECTION 8: Prosocial Behaviors

What do you think about the use of violence in the following situations?

[Hint: understood as the use of physical force intense enough to cause pain or injury to a person].

In self-defense	[Select one "viol_just"] 1 = It's unjustified 2 = It is somewhat unjustified 3 = Somewhat justified 4 = It is justified
To prevent aggression to others	
To win an argument	
To respond to an insult	
To get respect	
For a political cause	

Now, I'd like to ask you a little about your opinion Please tell me the extent to which you agree with each statement:

Individual success can be achieved while working with others	[Select one "agree"]
Joint effort is the best way to achieve success	
To succeed, one must cooperate with others	
Success is only achieved through individual effort	
Success is best achieved through cooperation rather than through competition	
In the end, cooperation with others is not compatible with success	
Shared efforts can lead to both individual and group success	

Now, I'd like to ask you a little about your behaviors. In the past six months have you...

Given money or food to someone in your family	[Select one "altruism"]
Lent money or food to someone in your family	
Given money or food to someone in your community	
Lent money or food to someone in your community	
Given money or food to someone outside of your community	

Lent money to someone outside of your community	
Worked for free to help someone in your family	
Worked for free to help someone in your community	
Worked for free to help someone outside of your community	
I'd like to ask you how much you trust people from various groups. Could you tell me for each whether you trust people from this group completely, somewhat, not very much or not at all?	
Your family	[Select one "trust_scale"]
Your neighborhood	
People you know personally	
People you meet for the first time	
People of a different community	
People of a different ethnic group	
People of another nationality	
If you suddenly needed a small amount of money, i.e., enough to pay for expenses for your household for one week, how many people in your community beyond your immediate household could you turn to who would be willing to provide this money?	[Enter Number]
To how many people in your community, beyond your immediate household, would you lend a small amount of money to if they needed it?	[Enter Number]

SECTION 9: Conflict Resolution Mechanism Preference - *Conflict with private company*

[Enumerator]: I will ask you to listen to another story on the same radio program about a community and a private company. Please pay attention, as I will ask you a few questions about this story afterwards.

Please play the following audio for participant.

[Audio D conflict other actors"]

How appropriate do you think the act suggested by **Carmela** is: to stay in the land even if this might imply a physical confrontation, even if it goes to a physical confrontation? {Select one}

[Select
"appropriate"]

How effective do you think this process that **Carmela** suggest would be in resolving this conflict? {Select one}

[Select "effective"]

How appropriate do you think the act suggested by **Emilia** is: to avoid a confrontation and instead go to the dialogue table? {Select one}

[Select
"appropriate"]

How effective do you think this process that Emilia suggests would be in resolving this conflict?	[Select one "effective"]
How accessible is to you the process described by Emilia ? (i. e. local dialogue spaces)	[Select "accessible"]
For which of the following reasons do you think the process described by Emilia is inaccessible? [If "accessible"=1 2"]	[Select one "reason_access"]
How appropriate do you think the act suggested by Carlos is: to avoid a confrontation by going to the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, and asking them to open an investigation, and through this process, find a solution?	[Select one "appropriate"]
How effective do you think this process that Carlos suggest would be in resolving this conflict? (i. e. the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman)	[Select one "effective"]
How accessible to you is the process described by Carlos ? (i. e the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman)	[Select "accessible"]
For which of the following reasons do you think the process described by Carlos is inaccessible? [If "accessible"=1 2"]	[Select one "reason_access"]

END OF INTERVIEW [if consented]	
We have now reached the end of the survey. Thank you very much \${name} for your time and attention.	
Do you have any final comments you would like to share before we conclude?	[Enter Response]
The interview is now over. Thank you very much for your time! The information you have provided will be very useful in improving the programs undertaken to improve the livelihoods of the members in your community.	
[Enumerator: please dismiss the participant and then complete the questions about the conditions of this interview, before finalizing and submitting this interview.]	
Where exactly did you conduct this interview?	[Select one "int_location"]
Please specify interview location: [if "int_location"=2]	[Enter Response]
Please proceed to capture GPS location.	[Capture GPS]
In which language(s) did you conduct this interview? {Select multiple}	1= Quechi

	2= Spanish
{If "77"}: Please specify other language used during interview:	[Enter Response]
What was the degree of privacy during this interview? I.e. did someone or some people come by (e.g. to listen in)?	[Select one "int_privacy"]
Was this interview paused/interrupted at any point?	[Select one "int_pause"]
Any final comments or things to report about this interview?	[Enter Response]
End of survey. \${en_name}, please swipe forward to submit and close this interview.	

END OF INTERVIEW [if refused]	
Okay, no problem. Would like to ask last question before concluding.	
What are the most important reasons for why they would not like to participate in the survey?	[Select multiple "refusal"]
Please specify the other reason for refusal:	[Enter Response]
[Enumerator: please dismiss the participant and then complete the last questions, before finalizing and submitting this interview.] [Enumerator: please confirm the geographic location of the participant.]	
In which "Departamento" does the participant currently reside? {Select one}	1= Alta Verapaz 2= Izabal
In which "Municipio" does the participant currently reside? {Select one}	1= Panzos 2= Tukurú 3= Senahu 4= El Estor
In which "Comunidad" does the participant currently reside?	[Select one "community"]
In which language(s) did you conduct this interview? {Select multiple}	1= Quechi 2= Spanish
End of survey. \${en_name}, please swipe forward to submit and close this interview.	

